Daily Report

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Czechoslovakia

Prague radio, citing CSTK, reports that "President of the Republic Vaclav Havel sent a letter to the Federal Assembly today in which he says that on Monday, 20 July, at 1800 he will resign from the post of president of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic."

Bosnia-Hercegovina

According to London PRESS ASSOCIATION, the leaders of the three warring communities signed a cease-fire agreement at the London talks on 17 July. Mate Boban, president of Herceg-Bosnia, said that "this document will not in any way prejudge any talks on the future constitutional arrangement of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is only to stop the fighting and the killing of civilians."

After Douglas Hurd, UK foreign minister, met with the Presidency, Belgrade radio reports that an agreement was "reached on the free and temporary transfer of citizens. Both sides agreed that all residents of Sarajevo can freely cross with their hand baggage between 18 and 20 July from the territory held by the Serbian forces to the territory held by the Territorial Defense of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and vice verse."

Croatia

Zagreb radio reports on the 16 July meeting between Douglas Hurd, UK foreign secretary, and President Franjo Tudjman. After the meeting, both made comments. Tudjman stated: "We wished Mr. Hurd success in his mission, indicating, in particular, the problem of the continuing occupation of Croatian regions by the former Yugoslav-Communist Army and Serbian-Montenegrin Army in the region of Dubrovnik and the threat to Croatian lands from Bosnia." Hurd commented that "both of us underscored the inviolability of the Bosnia-Hercegovina borders and the importance of this issue, which is supported both by the European Community and by Croatia."

Yugoslavia

Macedonia—The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in a public statement cited by TANJUG, "officially tendered its resignation...in line with the Constitution in view of the fact that the Macedonian Assembly had passed a vote of no confidence in it."

Bulgaria

A strike by Sofia transport workers continued for the second day, reports BTA. Following a cabinet meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Vasilev told reporters: "The cabinet believes strike actions must be called off before negotiations start." Sofia radio later reports that the leadership of the Confederation of Independent Trade Union in Bulgaria held a meeting, after which the trade union proposed: "A round of talks should be started with the Sofia City Municipality without delay, this very evening, and that, immediately following the start of negotiations, the transport workers' strike committees should ensure that at least 30 percent of the city's fleet of vehicles resumes operations beginning tomorrow morning."

Romania

Bucharest radio reports that President Ion Iliescu reviews the Istanbul Black Sea Conference, Helsinki CSCE Summit, and his visits to Estonia and Byelarus during a news conference. In view of these meetings, he commented on international conditions, saying: "Changes not only mark a new era of hope for the development of international relations and for the climate on our continent and throughout the world, but they have also generated new problems. Border disputes, ethnic conflicts, and military confrontations have emerged."

Transport Strike Continues; Union Proposes Talks

AU1607183592 Sofia BTA in English 1530 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 16 (BTA)—Today is the second day of the strike of Sofia's drivers, who demand higher wages. There are no trams, only two trolley-buses, and seven buses. Sofia's mayor arranged that buses of the Defence and Interior Ministries carry passengers, but they are quite insufficient.

In a letter to the government, Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, today insisted that the National Council for Social Partnership be convened in connection with the strike and the one-week protest actions of physicians. The cabinet discussed the letter at a regular meeting attended by Sofia's Mayor Aleksandur Yanchulev.

"The cabinet believes strike actions must be called off before negotiations start," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health Care Nikola Vasilev told journalists on behalf of the cabinet. He stressed that a negotiated solution to the strikers' problems should be sought by their representatives and Sofia municipality. As to the continuing health care workers' protests, Nikola Vasilev said their wage demands should be met within the framework of the decree on a 26 per cent wage rise in the state-financed sector through a dialogue between the trade unions and employers. The cabinet rejected Konstantin Trenchev's demand to convene the National Council for Social Partnership. The problems he has raised are not within the council's competence, Mr. Vasilev said on behalf of the government.

Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov told journalists that the situation does not call for a lock-out yet. He spoke about the trade unions in harsh terms. "People are suffering many privations and those who are escalating tensions should have a sense of proportion," Filip Dimitrov said. He still claims that strikes now are directed against parliament and the cabinet. The prime minister believes drivers have been deceived and the strike is serving dubious interests.

Sofia's Mayor Aleksandur Yanchulev believes the situation in Sofia has improved since yesterday. One hundred buses of the Defence and Interior Ministries are carrying passengers and more are expected to be granted. State- and private-owned buses are also running urban transport routes. Buses have started for Sofia from the provinces. Ministries have granted their office cars. However, the situation in Sofia's suburbs is critical. Discontented Sofianites are holding a rally in front of the building of the Podkrepa Trade Union. Sofia's mayor said on national radio today that urban transport companies have filed lawsuits against the strike committees, which, according to Prof. Yanchulev, called an illegal strike. The city council will take on drivers on a temporary basis.

Representatives of the strikers told a news conference today they are ready to negotiate with the mayor and to resume work once an agreement is reached. The mayor says, however, that there are no resources to increase the drivers' wages.

Cabinet Issues Declaration

AU1607162192 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] I will recall for our listeners the Council of Ministers declaration that was read by its spokesman Nadezhda Mikhaylova.

The government confirms its position that increases in incomes will be achieved in accordance with the regulatory ordinance adopted on 13 July 1991. The government expresses its gratitude to the doctors, teachers, and representatives of all professions who, with good reason, consider themselves to be disadvantaged, but understand the complexity of the situation and support the government's actions.

The government believes that the strike actions by the employees of the Sofia City Transportation System are not in the interest of society, and that the strikers' demands are unrealistic. The government is continuing to take measures to provide transportation facilities for the capital.

The government invites the strikers to reassess their position. The government advocates dialogue within the framework of the established rules. All illegal actions will be resolutely punished.

The government expresses its profound gratitude to all citizens of Sofia who, ignoring the inconvenience, have voluntarily offered their private vehicles for transporting citizens.

Union Calls For Negotiations

AU1607184892 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report by trade union correspondent Petur Donchev from the headquarters of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria in Sofia—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Donchev] Finally, a short time ago the leadership of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] ended a meeting that approved an extraordinary announcement on the strike, which KNSB Deputy Chairman Ms. Damyana Damyanova will now announce to the public.

[Damyanova] We have just finished our meeting. In view of our analysis of the situation, which we assess as serious; bearing in mind that the government and especially the Sofia City Municipality have expressed their desire for dialogue and negotiations; taking into account the prime minister's view that the situation that has been created in Sofia destabilizes the political situation in the country as a whole; and taking note of the fact that a contradiction has developed in practice between the claims of the Sofia City transport workers and the

well-founded demands of the health care and education workers, we propose that, with the mediation of the two trade union confederations, a round of talks should be started with the Sofia City Municipality without delay, this very evening, and that, immediately following the start of negotiations, the transport workers' strike committees should ensure that at least 30 percent of the city's fleet of vehicles resumes operations beginning tomorrow morning. This percentage should be gradually increased, provided that the talks proceed well.

We believe that this would be a good solution, bearing in mind that the strike already affects the interests of a very wide range of people.

[Donchev] Does this mean that the trade unions have softened their position, Ms. Damyanova?

[Damyanova] Well, you understand that we cannot adopt decisions in the name of our transport trade union federation, but appeal to both the transport federations—not only our own—to take into consideration the fact that they are affecting a very wide range of interests by continuing the strike. The provision of a minimum 30-percent level of services beginning tomorrow would calm the situation in Sofia, and at the same time would not weaken the positions adopted by our trade unions.

[Donchev] We will await reactions to your appeal.

Trade Union Officials Told To Turn In Weapons

AU1607195392 Sofia BTA in English 1827 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 16 (BTA)—Today police officials visited the Podkrepa Labour Confederation Headquarters in Sofia and delivered to the trade union's leaders a letter from Deputy Director of the Sofia Interior Ministry Directorate R. Stoilov. In February 1992 the Podkrepa leadership applied for gun licences, the letter reminds. However, according to Mr. Stoilov, the request was granted under statutory regulations no longer operative. In April 1992 the interior minister issued an order changing the requirements for granting gun licences. It voids the 13 gun licences granted to Podkrepa officials as of 6 July 1992.

Mr. Stoilov asks the Podkrepa officials to hand in their licences and firearms for safe keeping at the Sofia Interior Ministry Directorate. Podkrepa Vice President Oleg Chulev was the first to hand his gun over to the Sofia police.

Commenting on the confiscation of the firearms of Podkrepa officials the trade union's legal advisor Mariyana Ivanova described it as politically motivated. At a news briefing at Podkrepa's headquarters the chairman of the trade union's Central Auditing Committee Kamen Vlakhov said that since yesterday Podkrepa members and officials have been subjected to maltreatment.

Sofia residents keep protesting in front of Podkrepa's headquarters. The Sofia police was informed of the violations of law and order in front of the building in the morning, yet did not arrive before 4 pm. According to the Podkrepa official, the organized protests are held in violation of law.

Gun holders in Podkrepa categorically denied intentions to use the guns confiscated by the police today.

Police End Trade Union Protest at Chemical Plant

AU1607181392 Sofia BTA in English 1718 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 16 (BTA)—Today the police took control of the Neftochim Petrochemical Works in Burgas on the Black Sea, putting an end to its occupation by activists of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation dissatisfied with the company's new board of directors. According to a governmental source, no unpleasant incidents occurred. At about 1700 the new board of directors entered the building.

The police raided Neftochim a day after National Investigative Service examining magistrates and representatives of the Group for Combating Terrorism confiscated Chimimport and Neftochimimpex documentation on deals for oil deliveries to Neftochim and the Pleven-based Plama Company in late 1991. The documents will help investigators find out the reasons for the oil-processing industry's problems and locate the blame. Commenting on yesterday's operation, the Interior Ministry Press Office said it marked the beginning of a campaign against organized crime aiming to destroy the Bulgarian economy and smuggle funds out of the country.

Recently parliament appointed a commission headed by Virzhiniya Velcheva, MP [member of parliament] of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces, which will investigate the utilization of the World Bank 200 million U.S. dollar loan for buying oil products in October and December 1991.

Lukanov Cabinet Reportedly Gave Trenchev Money

AU1607194592 Sofia BTA in English 1826 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Sofia, July 16 (BTA)—The cabinet headed by Socialist Andrey Lukanov granted 250,000 leva to Konstantin Trenchev, leader of the Podkrepa Labour Confederation, in August 1990, national television reported this evening. Facsimiles of documents were displayed to support the statement.

The money was granted in breach of the Labour Code effective at that time. Two weeks after Trenchev received the money, the Socialist Party's headquarters was set on fire, it was said on television.

In the last few months the press has been publishing facsimiles of documents implicating the Podkrepa Trade Union in illegal trade in alcohol, perfumes and cigarettes.

Havel To Resign on 20 July

LD1707113592

[Editorial Report] Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech at 1120 GMT on 17 July interrupts its scheduled programming and carries the following announcement:

"We interrupt the broadcast of the motoring program to be able to report an important piece of news issued by CSTK several minutes ago.

"President of the Republic Vaclav Havel sent a letter to the Federal Assembly today in which he says that on Monday, 20 July at 1800 he will resign from the post of president of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. The letter was handed to Filip Sedivy, first deputy chairman of the Federal Assembly, today at 1300."

Leading Figures React

LD1707141792 Prague CSTK in English 1328 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Bratislava July 17 (CSTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik (HZDS) [Movement for a Democratic Slovakia] said today the announced resignation of Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel is "one of the steps that will lead to a new state setup (in Czechoslovakia)".

Moravcik said: "Mr. President will evidently play his role in the political structures of the Czech Republic. I think Europe will accept it with great understanding".

Asked whether by a new state setup he meant a division of Czechoslovakia into two independent states, Moravcik said "this cannot be ruled out".

Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus in Prague described the announcement that Havel will resign Monday as "a logical result of the constitutional crisis in Czechoslovakia".

At a press conference he said it is a correct step, adding that the Czechoslovak state would continue to function normally.

CSSD [Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party] chairman Jiri Horak said he is "very surprised and disappointed at the president's resignation".

"The solution Vaclav Havel chose is not the best one for Czechoslovakia", Horak said.

While Slovak Minister for International Relations Milan Knazko told CSTK he would not comment on Havel's resignation, former Slovak Premier and KDH [Christian Democratic Movement] chairman Jan Carnogursky said today's adoption by the Slovak parliament of the declaration of Slovakia's sovereignty was obviously the last straw in leading Havel to decide to step down.

"The world will connect his step with the adoption of the declaration...And this step will evidently meet with negative comments", he said.

ODS [Civic Democratic Party] spokesman Jiri Schneider said Havel's resignation is no surprise. He said the timing of the move indicates "that there is a connection with today's adoption of the declaration of Slovak sovereignty by the Slovak parliament".

SDL [Democratic Left Party] chairman Peter Weiss said Havel's decision was for him unexpected, and added that it will play into the hands of the Czech rightist forces which want to speed up the country's partition in an unconstitional manner.

Deputy to the Slovak parliament Frantisek Miklosko (KDH), the former Slovak parliament chairman, said Havel's resignation could have been part of a private agreement between the ODS and HZDS.

Miklosko said the ODS' interest in a speedy division of Czechoslovakia was clear from the moment when Klaus decided to stand for the post of Czech premier.

Assembly Member Views Implications

LD1707131292 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1212 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Immediately after Vaclav Havel's letter of resignation was delivered to the Federal Assembly, Filip Sedivy, parliament first deputy chairman, was interviewed by Milada Richterova:

[Begin recording] [Richterova] Mr. Deputy Chairman, as we have heard, a letter from the Presidential Office was handed over to you according to which the president, in essence, intends to declare his resignation on 20 July.

[Sedivy] The president does not intend to declare his resignation on Monday, the president has submitted it now, and he is to step down at 1800 on Monday.

[Richterova] To whom will the powers of state be transferred?

[Sedivy] There are two groups of powers. One group is being transferred to the Presidium of the Federal Assembly, that has the right to appoint and recall the federal government. The remaining powers reside with the government. By law, the government premier assumes the powers of the supreme commander of the armed forces and the government can, of course, delegate other powers that so far have been the president's to the premier, and thus I assume this is what will happen, as it is more efficient when powers are concentrated in one person's hands.

[Richterova] Is the declaration of the sovereignty of the Slovak state the most probable reason the president sent this letter to the Federal Assembly ?

[Sedivy] The timing of the president's announcement to me, in the absence of the chairman of the Federal Assembly, makes it obvious that it is a reaction to this declaration.

[Richterova] Mr. Deputy Chairman, what does the adoption of this declaration mean in practice?

[Sedivy] From the purely constitutional point of view it means nothing. It means nothing, nothing happens. Sovereignty is, of course, guaranteed by the Constitution to both nations; thus, this is rather a kind of solemn act to point this out, I would say.

[Richterova] Thus, it does not mean a split in the Federation?

[Sedivy] Not from a purely legal point of view. I do not believe that it is necessary to convene the Federal Assembly because of this issue—the time to do so would be in two weeks or less than two weeks, anyway. I am convinced that this issue will be discussed on the 30th [July—when the Federal Assembly will hold a session to elect the president]. So, there probably is no need to convene it. [end recording]

Sladek Fails To Receive Enough Votes for Election

LD1607094792 Prague CSTK in English 0907 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Prague July 16 (CSTK)—Miroslav Sladek, chairman of the Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC), was not elected Czechoslovakia's president in the first vote of the second round of the presidential election.

Sladek failed to gain the necessary number of votes in either of the two houses of the Federal Assembly (parliament).

He obtained 32 votes in the 150-member house of the people where 90 votes were necessary, 15 votes in the Czech part of the House of Nations and 11 in its Slovak part (45 votes in each of the two parts of the 150-member House of Nations were necessary for his election).

Chairman Jiri Horak said that he is opposed to unconstitutional proceedings regarding the future state set-up.

Deputy Vaclav Grulich, answering a question from Radio Czechoslovakia reporters, said that yesterday's statement by Vaclav Klaus' government was presumably unconstitutional as, he said, it denied the current Czechoslovak constitutional status quo.

The Slovak government's program is, according to Czech Social Democrats, much more aimed at the preservation of the common state, and Meciar's government has given more scope for negotiations and collaborative efforts.

Some points in the Czech government's policy statement, however, are not opposed to Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party policy. Deputy Grulich went on to say, however, that what actually matters is what kind of people will set about implementing the policy. He said that Minister Vladimir Dlouhy of the Civic Democratic Alliance has, in the case of many firms, only seen the photographs, and his person gives no guarantee that our industry will not collapse.

Social Democrats will begin to discuss their definitive stance on the vote of confidence in Klaus' government in about an hour, in a joint meeting with the Liberal Social Union.

The leaders of the Social Democrats chose not to answer a question from Radio Czechoslovakia on whether they will back Vaclav Havel's candidacy for the post of Czech president. Chairman Horak, however, when repeatedly asked at the end of the briefing, conceded that Vaclav Havel will, in the party's view, make the best Czech president.

Kovac Proposes Change in Election Rules

LD1507152992 Prague CSTK in English 1622 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Prague July 14 (CSTK)—Czechoslovak Federal Parliament Chairman Michal Kovac today proposed to include in the agenda of the 2nd parliament session, reopening Thursday, a draft for changing the rules for electing a Czechoslovak president.

At a press conference Kovac said the purpose of the proposal is to extend the current fortnight's interval between each double-round of the presidential election to six weeks. If the only official candidate in the second double-round, SPR-RSC chairman Miroslav Sladek, is not elected on July 16, the election would be repeated either the same day or on July 17. If the parliament approves the proposed change, the third double-round of the election would take place at the end of August, Kovac said.

House of the People Chairman Vaclav Benda backed the proposal, saying the frequent presidential elections lead to disrespect for them, and upset the parliament's other duties.

The parliament failed to elect President Vaclav Havel at the beginning of its 2nd session on July 3. According to current rules, Havel can stand for president again in the third double-round, but he has not said he would do so.

Social Democrats Present Views on Current Issues

LD1507175092 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 0900 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Report by station journalist Alexander Picha on briefing given by Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party in Prague on 14 July]

[Text] Chairman Jiri Horak said that he is opposed to unconstitutional proceedings regarding the future state set-up.

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Meciar Accuses Czechs of Waging 'Cold War'

AU1507104992 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 9 Jul 92 p 3

[Report on interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by an unidentified EXTRA S correspondent; place and date not given: "A Cold Propaganda War? Vladimir Meciar About Attempts To Complicate the Position of the Slovak Government"]

[Text] The Movement for a Democratic Slovakia weekly EXTRA S No. 28 published an interview with Vladimir Meciar, in which he said, among other things:

[Meciar] The developments in the talks [between the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia and the Civic Democratic Party] are picking up speed. One of the key problems is that the Czech side demands that we determine the fate of our common state by 30 September. It offers only two alternatives. We shall either be two states, independent of each other and, possibly, tied together by a custom union at some point in the future, or we shall retain the federation. To the Czech side, a confederation means the same thing as two independent states tied by a custom union, which is a notion that we reject.

The Civic Democratic Party [ODS] is compelled to first come to an agreement to seek compromises on the Czech political scene, and only then with the Slovak partners. I see great political pressure here, that I would call a cold war in relation to us. That is particularly true of the mass media. The aim of this cold war is to complicate as much as possible the situation for the Slovak Government in establishing itself and developing its programmatic tendencies. [Federal] Radio and television, in particular, have accomplished a great amount of disinformation work. I assess this as the continuation of a hate-filled campaign against Slovakia. Virtually no Czech politician has protested against this. This is alarming and could be explained as the Czech politicians' connivance in this campaign.

We have several worries, the biggest of which is how we will arrange Czech-Slovak relations, whether we will manage to preserve what is reasonable, lest we sever all ties, which definitely need not be done. We do not want to break up anything. Quite the contrary, we want to retain what is beneficial, and our Czech partners know this very well.

Another worry concerns external relations. We are located in a specific geopolitical realm, we have our neighbors and our historical experience. Our worry is not to drift into a certain international isolation through someone else's fault.

It is not far from the truth to say that someone is very carefully preparing this isolation for us.

Another problem that must be considered very closely is the social sphere. The most essential things are at stake here—to give people work and bread. Measures applied in the economic and social spheres have so far had a negative impact on people's living stadnards. It is necessary to analyze the state of affairs, and bring the negative development to a halt. In this stage, our Government can only make some partial changes and take corrective steps so that the citizen does not have to pay such a heavy price for the transformation of the economy. It cannot, however, establish a cohesive well-functioning system yet. This will take some time. We are not indifferent to how people will understand and support us in these efforts.

[EXTRA S] How do foreign countries and their politicians perceive our emancipatory process?

[Meciar] Figuratively speaking, foreign countries have two faces. One is the propaganda face, that is not favorably inclined to us. Even though some indications of objective journalism exist, the hysterical and offensive tendencies in various commentaries continue. We are still being portrayed as nationalists and a destabilizing element in Central Europe, as a nation that is making life very difficult for the good president and the Czech

brothers. Moreover, we are being portrayed as a country with a disrupted economy that has a great impact on the influx of foreign investments and funds. Each such piece of information means a great financial loss. On the other hand, however, we see the changed attitude of the governments of individual countries. They have indicated to us that, in the event of Czechoslovakia's partition, nothing would actually happen. Two new subjects would exist in its place that would assume the previous commitments, and agree on how to comply with them.

Slovak Foreign Minister on EC Agreements

LD1607184792 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Slovak 2000 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Slovak International Relations Minister Milan Knazko said that Slovakia should present neither political nor economic problems for Europe. Knazko told CSTK that although there could be a legal problem, it could be dealt with. Responding to a question on when the association agreement between European Communities and Slovakia will be signed, should Slovakia become independent, Milan Knazko answered: the association agreement has been signed. The issue now is to what extent it will be necessary to modify the agreement. Knazko said what will matter will be the extent of the share of the Czech and Slovak Republic in the implementation of this agreement, and the way in which the powers will be divided. Knazko stated that the external framework and the content of the agreements remain unchanged.

Slovak Parliament Debates Meciar Statement

LD1507174992 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The second session of the Slovak Parliament continued today with a discussion on the policy statement of the Slovak government delivered yesterday by Premier Vladimir Meciar. [passage omitted]

The speakers were mainly the deputies for the Christian Democratic Movement [CDM], with critical comments on the government program.

Jozef Polacko said that the law on screening is still in force although the current government ignores it and even the best expert must be pure with regard to his ethical and civic qualities.

Miroslav Tahu, also from the CDM, said that the government policy statement is a compromise between the existing constitutional state and the program of the Movement for Democratic Slovakia. He also asked a number of questions in connection with the possible division of the state: Will the Czech Republic not save a few millions wasted on Slovakia? Why does the Czech side agree to the division without any tussle, or should we say that Slovakia is losing financially due to the federation?

Jan Masaryk, also from the CDM, devoted a substantial part of his speech to the foreign relations of the Slovak Republic. In his view the government program does not contain a single word of ideas on an independent foreign policy, despite its efforts to become a subject of international law. The government wants to guarantee all treaties of the CSFR but it is likely that in the case of a division, the Slovak Republic will have to go through again the process of ratification of the EEC association treaty which, however, does not depend on us but on the willingness of individual European states. He also mentioned some facts about the development of the economy as given by the Federal Statistical Office, and expressed concern that the economic reforms in Slovakia will be brought to a standstill.

Slovak Deputy Premier Milan Knazko answered them. The government counts on a partner beyond the Morava river which is good-natured, perceptive, and intelligent. This however does not mean that it is not vigilant should the Czech side turn out to be different. He again repeated that the definite program of this government is not to break mutual relations. With our policy, however, we have to strive to become a star in the European sky, if for nothing else than for you, said Milan Knazko—meaning for the CDM—because you have come with it.

In this connection the deputy premier tried to allay the worries of the opposition about the uncertain fate of the EEC association agreement. What is happening is the internal re-division of jurisdictions. The quotas were set for this territorial space, and it remains the same. The only thing that changes are the guarantors: Instead of one, there will be two. According to Milan Knazko, this is the path to the star in the European sky which we want.

Regarding the address of the Hungarian coalition in the parliament, he that it is not right if it styles itself in the role of protector of national minorities as though the current government does not respect their rights. Friends, you have no arguments for this. We will fulfill our duty toward the minorities, he said.

Erno Rozsa, for the Hungarian coalition, called him for these words "the teacher of nations" and said that from his words his hostile attitude toward the Hungarian national minority is apparent although his performance as an actor is great.

Hvezdon Koctuch, chairman of the Economic and Budget Committee of the Slovak Parliament, then spoke then in an invective spirit. He said regarding some statistical data given to him mainly by the CDM deputies that statistical tables are like a huge swimsuit because they hide exactly what we would like to see. He also quoted from Masaryk, that political sovereignty is not possible without economic sovereignty—this is not a well-known quotation. The world today is gained more by goods than by a sword.

Carnogursky Criticizes Slovakian Sovereignty

AU1507140692 Bratislava SLOVENSKY DENNIK in Slovak 10 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by Jan Carnogursky, chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement: "The Declaration of Sovereignty"]

[Text] The Slovak National Council Presidium decided that the Slovak National Council plenary meeting on 17 July will have the declaration of and the resolution on the Slovak Republic's sovereignty on its agenda. The deputies will have two drafts in front of them:

- The declaration of the Slovak Republic's sovereignty;

- The resolution of the Slovak National council on the Slovak Republic's sovereignty.

The first document, the Declaration of the Slovak Republic's Sovereignty, contains principles that are already contained in the valid constitutional law on the Czechoslovak Federation of 1968—or in documents subject to international law, as the case may be. That is, it contains a principle stating that nations—including the Slovak nation—are entitled to self-determination and to determination of the form of their state existence.

The second document, the Slovak National Council Resolution on the Slovak Republic's Sovereignty, which makes references to the first document, goes even further and states that the existing CSFR Constitution will be valid only until the Slovak Constitution is adopted, and it fixes the end of August this year as the deadline for passing the Slovak Constitution. Moreover, the draft resolution says that the Slovak Republic's citizens should decide in a referendum about relations between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic, after it has adopted its constitution, should conclude a coexistence treaty with the Czech Republic. The content of the second document means a clear disintegration of the state. The referendum mentioned in the document is quite questionable—what kind of a constitutional setup should the people decide in this referendum? Moreover, concluding a treaty with the Czech Republic is illusory, since two are needed to conclude a treaty. Czech representatives have said repeatedly that they will not agree to a confederative, or even a looser, arrangement.

The declaration of sovereignty refers to a historical moment. It may be a historical moment now, but not of the kind the authors of the declaration believe.

The declaration states that the Slovak nation has the right to self-determination, that it has the freedom to determine the way and the shape of its own state life, and it states that national sovereignty is the basis for a sovereign state of the Slovak nation.

However, all this was not only declared, but is also included in the constitution of 1968!

The text of the constitutional law on the Czechoslovak Federation of 1968 reads:

We, the Czech and the Slovak nations, recognize the inalienability of the right to self-determination up to secession, and we respect the sovereignty of every nation and its right to freely determine the way and the shape of its national and state life. In Article 1, it is written that the CSFR respects the sovereignty of national states (of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic).

What purpose does it serve to solemnly redeclare this again? It is evident that the purpose is to create a propagandist atmosphere for the second document, which really means a breakup of the state. The breakup of the state, a state that provides us with basic safety and freedom—yes, freedom to determine the way and the shape of the national and state life.

In his recent television interview, Prime Minister Meciar said that Slovakia is not prepared, so far, to declare sovereignty. Yet, in practical politics he is taking steps after which Slovakia will be alone and isolated. A responsible politician should present to the nation a set of guarantees and measures to be taken in such a situation. He have not heard anything to this effect from those who are presenting the declaration.

HZDS Discusses Sovereignty of Slovak Republic

AU1607122592 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 14 Jul 92 p 1

["MRU"-signed report: "Slovak National Council To Declare Sovereignty at the End of the Week; The Movement for a Democratic Slovakia Makes Concessions From the Original Draft"]

[Excerpts] The adoption of the Declaration on the Sovereignty of the Slovak Republic is planned for 17 July, when a festive meeting of the Slovak parliament will be held. During yesterday's discussion with the Slovak National Council Political Board, which is a consultative body for the parliament chairman, only negligible editorial changes were made to the closing part of the draft of the declaration. Substantial changes were, however, made to the draft of the resolution that the Slovak National Council will adopt along with the sovereignty declaration. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] proposed on its own initiative that those parts be deleted from the draft of the resolution that speak about the validity of the present Constitution only until the Slovak Republic Constitution is adopted and about the recommendation that the Slovak Republic Constitution be adopted by the end of August, followed by a call for a referendum. The Party of the Democratic Left demands that the resolution contain a different sequence of steps. According to Slovak National Council Chairman Ivan Gasparovic, the declaration will need only an absolute majority vote for approval, rather than

a three-fifths majority. He did not rule out the possibility of some deputies proposing approval by a three-fifths vote.

Egyutteles' Duray Responds To Meciar Remark

AU1607130692 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 15 Jul 92 p 2

["(RS)"-signed report: "Image of the Enemy"]

[Text] Prague—During his meeting with the Association of Slovak Journalists For a True Image of Slovakia on 9 July, Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar (Movement For a Democratic Slovakia) described the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement and Egyutteles representatives striving for cultural and educational autonomy for Hungarians living in South Slovakia as "subversives who want to provoke a massacre."

"I was extremely taken aback by the expression 'state subversive,' because it reminds me of a term used in one of the paragraphs of the 1961 Criminal Code, a paragraph on whose basis I once 'languished' in investigative custody," said Federal Assembly Deputy and Egyutteles Chairman Miklos Duray yesterday. According to him, only a person who, for example, as a citizen of the Slovak Republic tries to destroy this republic can be considered a subversive. "To this very day it would not occur to me to have such intentions, and I would not want to have them even in the future," said Duray. He added that it is also in Central Europe's interest to preserve Czechoslovakia's international legal continuity. "Although, I realize the longer this situation lasts, the less likely this is," said the Egyutteles chairman.

According to what he said, not preserving the CSFR's continuity does not in itself mean that the issue of reviewing the borders between Slovakia and Hungary would be raised. "The aforementioned problem does not automatically trigger this," noted Duray.

He is convinced that the Slovak nation's so-called emancipation process is in fact a quasi-emancipation process inasmuch as it manifests itself in a partially imperialist manner, especially in the sphere of human rights.

"The quasi-emancipation process in Slovakia is taking place in a somewhat strange context," continued the Egyutteles chairman. "It is as if it is inseparable from the image of an enemy. On one side, there are the Czechs and Prague, while on the other side are the Hungarians and Budapest. That is, Slovak representatives can only conceive their aims in a negative context," concluded Miklos Duray.

Hungarian Parties Reject Slovak 'Hostile Gestures'

AU1507153592 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 13 Jul 92 p 8

["I.L."-signed report: "Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement and Coexistence: We Reject Threats"]

[Text] Prague—"In the last two years, under pressure from nationalist and etatist forces, there has been backsliding regarding the position of national minorities in Slovakia, backsliding which the minority parties have subjected to criticism. In the last few days, in particular, this criticism has been negatively assessed by the sole ruling party in Slovakia, as well as by the Slovak National Party and the Party of the Democratic Left, as being directed against the Slovak nation and the Slovak state," according to a statement issued by representatives of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement [MKDH]-Coexistence coalition. Bela Bugar (MKDH) and Miklos Duray (Coexistence) regard such an assessment of their criticism as hostile and aimed at creating a psychosis against the minorities. Nevertheless, in response to these hostile gestures, the Hungarian coalition once again advances the offer of cooperation that would help resolve the situation that has arisen.

Hungarians Set Conditions for Slovak Sovereignty

LD1507092292 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] The Hungarian deputies in the Slovak parliament will only support the Slovak statement of sovereignty if this recognizes the right of minorities to self-administration. This was declared in a joint statement issued by the Hungarian representatives in the Pozsony [Bratislava] legislature. Among the conditions of the Hungarian politicians is that the Slovak leadership should respect the Constitution and the laws, and should declare that a federal state can only be split in two through constitutional means.

The Pozsony legislature is to vote on Friday on the Slovak statement of sovereignty that it views as the first step to breaking away.

Slovakia's Ethnic Hungarians Call for Autonomy

LD1407204792 Prague CSTK in English 1830 GMT 14 Jul 92

[Text] Bratislava July 14 (CSTK)—Leading representatives of the MKDH [Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement] said today their movement urges that areas in southern Slovakia inhabited largely by ethnic Hungarians be granted autonomy.

They told a press conference they want a degree of self-rule that could give rise to a college for Hungarians living in Slovakia.

The MKDH leaders said Slovakia's Hungarian minority, which numbers about 600,000 out of a total population of 5.3 million in the republic, does not seek to secede, but rather seeks to work together with ethnic Slovaks in an environment of peace, tolerance and economic growth.

They said they would be presenting to the Slovak Parliament proposals for solving problems concerning the Hungarian minority.

Deputies to the Slovak Parliament from the MKDH and Egyutteles said they would support a declaration of Slovak sovereignty, due to be adopted by the Parliament on July 17, if the Parliament recognises the right of autonomy for the republic's Hungarian regions and guarantees the rights of Hungarians through a constitution and international agreements.

Slovak Hungarian Leader on Territorial Autonomy

LD1507165792 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 13 Jul 92

[Interview with Bela Bugar, chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement in Slovakia, by Laszlo Pollak, a Pozsony (Bratislava) Radio staff member, place and date not given, from the "Without Borders" program; first paragraph is announcer's introduction—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] If the Slovaks declare a new state, the ethnic Hungarians will ask for territorial autonomy, according to Bela Bugar, Chairman of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement in Slovakia; at least this is what the news agencies reported. Laszlo Pollak, staff member of the Pozsony [Bratislava] radio, asked him about the details.

[Pollak] Should we refute this news or explain it?

[Bugar] I believe that we should somehow explain it in such a way that our election program, that is the election program of the Hungarian Christian Democratic Movement, includes this sentence, this (?area). So, if an autonomous Slovakia is formed here, we do not deny nations' right to self-determination, but at the same time we expect that we will also receive guarantees for our own rights. Looking at the developments of the current political situation, we can speak of anything but democracy; perhaps we can speak of the democracy of the majority nation. The Presidency of the Slovak National Council is structured in such a way that the Slovak National Party, with 15 deputies, receives two places in the Presidency, while the Hungarian Coalition, with 14 deputies, only receives one. When we asked why, saying that we would not accept this, the answer was that as we, that is, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, have decided this, it must be accepted.

[Pollak] If I hear the phrase territorial autonomy, I immediately think of a map. Could you speak about this more specifically, or do you conceive territorial autonomy via the existing regions and self-governments?

[Bugar] By territorial autonomy we do not mean that someone from above defines what will be the autonomy, the self-government area for the Hungarians. As you mentioned, the issue is the autonomy of the regions, that is, the regions formed under natural circumstances would have self-determination. It would not be something dictated from above; it would be the raising to a certain legal level of something that is organized from the bottom, the guaranteeing of rights.

[Pollak] It is also obvious that if the question is raised in the Slovak Parliament, they will not agree to it right away. This is a goal that has to be reached somehow. How?

[Bugar] Well, the Hungarian Coalition has 14 deputies, so they can voice this at every forum where the opportunity arises. We already know that the new version of the language law now being prepared will not be the language law that we minority deputies conceive and would like. If we speak of the language law then it should protect the language of the minority nation, not that of the majority. We will have to stand up in similar fashion in connection with territorial self-determination, and we will have to tell them all that these concepts are not against the Slovak nation, the population living here, but that we too would like to make decisions ourselves. [passage omitted]

Yugoslav Opposition Leaders Hold Talks in Budapest

Delegation, Jeszenszky Meet

LD1607100492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2153 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 15 (TANJUG)—Hungary is willing to support the efforts of Yugoslav Federal Prime Minister Milan Panic and the Serbian Democratic opposition to end the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, said Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky during a meeting with a delegation of the Serbian Democratic Movement (DEPOS) in Budapest on Wednesday [15 July].

The delegation is paying a two-day visit to the Hungarian capital at the invitation of Hungarian political parties and the parliamentary Foreign Policy Committee.

The talk encompassed also the position of the 350,000 ethnic Hungarians in Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina and the problem of refugees from the parts of the former Yugoslav Federation ripped by civil war who are seeking safety in neighbouring Hungary.

The delegation delivered to Jeszenszky the movement's platform on the position and protection of ethnic minorities. Both sides said that talks on that question might be useful for developing cooperation between Hungary and Serbia.

DEPOS, which has been formed recently by some opposition parties, institutions and prominent public figures in Serbia, organized eight-day protests against the Serbian leadership outside the Federal Parliament building in Belgrade.

Delegation Holds News Conference

LD1607212692 Budapest MTI in English 1647 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Budapest, July 16 (MTI)—A delegation of the Serbian opposition federation, the DEPOS, held talks in Hungary. The delegation was meeting an invitation from the Hungarian parliament's foreign affairs committee.

The Serbian politicians summarized their talks at a press conference in parliament on Tuesday [14 July].

Radoslav Stojanovic, vice-president of the Serbian Democratic Party, said the delegation was able to hold extremely useful talks both with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky and with members of the foreign affairs committee. The visit to Budapest proved that "the Hungarian parliament desires cooperation with democratic Serbia," he said.

Similar desires guide the members of the Serbian democratic opposition. According to them, cooperation is necessary in view of the neighbourliness of the two countries, the geo-political determination, and the historical past that offers numerous links. The politician was satisfied to note that Hungarian law-makers ensured their Serbian negotiating partners of their readiness to help resolve the southern Slav crisis.

Stojanovic said the talks touched on the situation of Hungarians in Vojvodina, and the matter of Yugoslav refugees. With respect to the latter, the Serbian opposition leaders said solving the problem was a common interest in which all neighbouring states, and many responsible European factors should play a role. In their view, Hungary's stand regarding the southern Slav refugees has been very fair.

As regards the Hungarians in Vojvodina, the opposition federation places the main emphasis on democratization in Serbia. The creation of democracy could also be the guarantee to enforce minority rights.

In answer to questions, the Serbian politicans discussed the matter of the UN sanctions. They said that, according to the position of the democratic federation, a solution could be achieved by eliminating the reasons that brought about the sanctions. They noted with appreciation that although Hungary observes the international sanctions, it has made several concessions towards Serbia. The opposition politicians consider this a good sign with respect to the future of good neighbourly relations.

Milan Komnemic, vice-president of the Serbian Renewal Movement, noted that the Bosnian crisis cannot be solved without agreement between the three peoples that form the state.

According to the Serbian opposition politicians, the proposals of EC peace mediator Lord Carrington should be accepted, and the Bosnia conference should be continued with the participation of all three sides concerned in the crisis—the Serbs, the Croats and the Muslims. The position of the democratic movement is that unilateral talks do not lead to results.

With respect to the sanctions and the Bosnian war, the Serbian opposition politicians warned that a military solution enacted by the international community would be premature, all the more so as the negotiation opportunities have not yet been exhausted. They also warned that the appearance of foreign elements in the southern Slav crisis could be interpreted as intervention, which would favour the extremists, and thereby make the work of the opposition much more difficult.

Government Views Bosnian Refugees, Soviet Troops

LD1607220992 Budapest MTI in English 1805 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Budapest, July 16 (MTI)—The Hungarian Government held a session on Thursday [16 July]. In the first half of the meeting, the cabinet discussed the refugee issue, and the final settlement of economic and financial issues related to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary.

Government spokesman Balazs Laszlo, speaking to journalists during a break in the session, said 3,500 Bosnian refugees arrived in Hungary via Serbia and Croatia over the last few days, in the framework of an organized relocation action. The Hungarian refugee camps are full, he said.

Istvan Morvay, secretary of state at the Ministry of the Interior, informed the government that the majority of the Bosnian refugees are women and children, and many of them were ill on arrival, several suffering from infectuous diseases such as tuberculosis and dysentery.

This morning, another 500 Bosnian refugees arrived by buses from Croatia, entering Hungary at Dravaszabolcs. They had been on the road for five days, and the sick and mainly elderly passengers were not given refuge anywhere. Seeing their condition, the Hungarian authorities allowed them to enter the country, for humanitarian reasons. [passage omitted]

In the following, the spokesman reported that Prime Minister Jozsef Antall had addressed a memo to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The letter was handed over on Thursday to D.D. Ryurikov, political deputy of the Russian president, by Hungarian ambassador to Moscow Gyorgy Nanovfszky. A copy was also presented to one of the Russian deputy foreign ministers.

In the letter, Antall acknowledged the agreement concluded in Helsinki last week, according to which both the Hungarian and the Russian sides renounce their financial and economic claims remaining after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. They also agreed that the Hungarian and the Russian foreign ministers would sign the relevant agreement as soon as possible.

Antall and Yeltsin originally agreed on this means to settle the financial issues in Moscow on December 6, 1991.

Government Denies Participation in Strike Dispute

LD1607193792 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Zdobyslaw Milewski, the premier's press adviser, handed us a declaration in which the government states that it is not a party in the strike dispute. This is a dispute between the trade unions and the mine managements, and the government warns against management undertakings that go beyond enterprises' realistic possibilities, we read in the declaration.

Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka ordered a report on the attack on trade union activists at the State Hard Coal Agency in Katowice. If it transpires that the law was infringed, the prime minister will order the prosecutor to take firm measures.

The declaration states that government representatives will meet the Mining and Power Industry subcommission at the Sejm on 17 July to begin work on restructuring the mining industry. It has also been decided to look into the issue of export limits and bottlenecks in coal transport.

Labor Minister Details Government Stand on Strikes

LD1607200192 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Studio statement by Jacek Kuron, Polish labor and social policy minister—live]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: We have made a great civilizational leap together in three years. We are now roughly one-third of the way. However, this means that we must do in six or seven years what other countries have done in 20 or 30 years with great resources. This includes Silesian mining, that finds itself in a very difficult situation. The world has changed, and suddenly we find ourselves with our production...[changes thought] 12,000,000 tonnes of excess coal will lie on stockpiles at the end of the year. We need fast restructuring; immediate action is required to accelerate exports and various other activities surrounding this. The government is prepared for this action. It is ready. We ask trade union federations to ask all trade unions to participate with us in this process. The trade unions must participate in this. We also want to declare very forcefully that taking wages from management hands is no way of resolving the problem. Management can sign such remuneraton obligations. This is what is happenning in Silesia: Those who have signed an agreement for 500,000 zlotys, are striking again because they want another 500,000 zlotys, that is, 1,000,000 zlotys altogether. They will not see this million when the mine will go bankrupt, and they will have to transfer to unemployment benefits. Quite simply, there is no reason that people should just take wages for themselves and not undertake restructuring activities in this difficult period for mining. The government will not legalize such activities. This is a matter between the work force and management. That said, the management will also bear responsibility for the fact that it has brought the mine to bankruptcy. Jointly, together—here, we include Solidarity '80, that has not participated in these talks—we want to undertake immediate and long-term activities so that this mining industry can function, and so that people can live in Silesia and breathe clean air. This can be done this year or next year. There are plans regarding this matter. There is also money for this from the World Bank. However, every illegal activity, and every activity leading to the break up of conditions for the functioning of a mine by means of taking money is like suicide. We must all be aware of this fact.

Meets With Union Leaders

LD1607213492 Warsaw PAP in English 1825 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Warsaw, July 16—Poland's new Labour Minister Jacek Kuron called on Thursday [16 July] for talks between Poland's trade unions and the government to discuss the functioning of Poland's state enterprises. He added that the government side would issue specific proposals to the trade unions within the next 7-10 days.

Kuron's comments followed a series of separate meetings held on Thursday with Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski, OPZZ head Ewa Spychalska (the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions), and Marian Jurczyk from Solidarity '80, set against the background of growing labour unrest in Poland.

He said that he hoped the two sides would be able to put together joint government-union draft laws to deal with new corporate structures for state-owned enterprises, their indebtedness and methods of privatization, the removal of the tax on excessive wage increases, the establishment of a state treasury, collective labour contracts, and minimum levels of state social security.

Kuron also called on the union leaders to make efforts to reduce the level of social tension during negotiations on a government-union stabilisation agreement.

Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski described the stabilisation agreement as a mechanism which would allow the government to implement significant reforms, while at the same time ensuring the pursuit of an anti-recessionary policy. Krzaklewski also added that the government ought to present its draft laws on debt relief and the excessive wages tax by the end of July, which would make it possible for the stabilisation agreement to be enacted by the autumn.

Following his meeting with Solidarity '80 leader Marian Jurczyk, Kuron rejected an invitation to visit the Katowice headquarters of the state coal agency, which has been occupied for over 2 weeks now by protesting mineworkers from the Solidarity '80 union. "No government delegation could countenance a visit to people

breaking the law," he said. However, he did not rule out the possibility of meeting the protesting miners in any other place.

Striking Miners, Government Talks Continue

LD1607203192 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Miners at the Silesian mines of Anna, Grodziec, Jowisz, Makoszowy, Staszic, and Ziemowit are on strike. Miners at the Bobrek, Piast, and Silesia mines ended their strikes early this morning. Miners at the Jan Kanty pit suspended their strike at 1800 after signing a wage accord with management.

Apart from wage increases, the protesting miners demand that the mine debts be lifted and that a system of credits and strategic coal reserves be created.

There are 70 hard coal mines in the country; 65 are in the Upper Silesian Basin, while the rest are in the Lublin and lower Silesian fields. Five unprofitable mines will be closed. There are 420,000 people working in the mining sector, including 340,000 miners. The situation in the Silesian mines is changing by the hour. Some mines end strikes, while others begin them.

All miners are awaiting the results of Industry and Trade Ministry talks. The second round of talks today between representatives of the four trade union federations in mining, the employers and mine managers, and the Industry and Trade minister, as well as representatives of the Finance, Labor, and Social Policy Ministries, began at 1400. A protocol of provisional agreements was signed at 1430. This is the result of the talks so far. Yesterday's talks lasted seven hours, ending before midnight. Provisional agreements on four of the five topics the trade unionists put forward at the talks have been signed, including those involving lifting debts, crediting coal mines, strategic reserves, and accounting between mines and power stations. [passage omitted]

The most difficult matter that interested miners the most and has so far not been resolved is that of wages and pensions. Talks on this subject began at 1500 but were broken off after 1800. They will continue at 1500 on 17 July.

Mielec Transportation, Electricity Workers Strike

LD1607205292 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1730 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] None of the Mielec Transportation Equipment Plant departments worked today. Strike action was called after only 300,000 zloties of the advance was reimbursed instead of the promised half of June salaries. Solidarity and the National Trade Union Accord support the strike. They were joined by the power and electricity generating plant. The town is without electricity. The unionists appointed a delegation that has been holding talks in the Industry and Trade Ministry for 30 minutes.

Government Establishes Foreign Investment Agency

LD1607213992 Warsaw PAP in English 1820 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Warsaw, July 16—The Polish Government has established a new agency to promote inward foreign investment, it was announced on Thursday [16 July]. According to its president Bogdan Chojna, the new State Foreign Investment Agency promotes Poland as an investment location for foreign investors, at the same time helping them to cut through Polish bureaucratic regulations. He noted that the incompetence of state officials and many enterprise managers was also making it difficult to devise programmes to help Polish firms to attract foreign investment. Chojna said the new agency would initiate intensive training programmes for Polish officials and managers, with the help of funds from foreign contributors. He also said that the agency would also seek to publish figures outlining the scale of foreign capital invested in Poland.

Iliescu Discusses Istanbul, Helsinki Talks

AU1607104492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0716 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Introductory statement by Romanian President Ion Iliescu at a news conference at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, I convened this news conference after a number of important events have taken place. Because of this, I believe that it is necessary to hold a briefing for the Romanian press and representatives of the international press.

Thus, the Istanbul meeting on the Black Sea, which also marked an important moment for this area in Europe, was followed by the CSCE Conference in Helsinki. Then, I had two significant visits.

As far as the Helsinki conference and its importance is concerned, I wanted to share with you certain conclusions in the introductory statement of this briefing.

As a matter of fact, the press widely reported and emphasized certain fundamental features of that event. First of all, one should note the radical change in international conditions, not only since the first Helsinki conference in 1975 but also since the Paris conference 2 years ago, where the Paris Charter was signed. These international conditions are marked by a few elements: in the past two years the Soviet Union has been dismantled, the Yugoslav process has taken place, and new independent states have emerged. Of the 35 states present in Helsinki in 1975, this time there were 52 states, of which 51 were present, since Yugoslavia was not present. This reflects not only a quantitative change as a result of the emergence of new states, but also qualitative elements that mark new relations in Europe, namely, the disappearance of military, political, and ideological blocs. Likewise, as noted during the conference as well, this time a broad European-Atlantic-Asian space has appeared, which was represented within this conference.

Furthermore, these changes not only mark a new era of hope for the development of international relations and for the climate on our continent and throughout the world, but they have also generated new problems. Border disputes, ethnic conflicts, and military confrontations have emerged. We, as well as other delegations, stressed that in the current context, it is important to find a moderate and balanced approach as well as political solutions to the states of conflict.

We have also stressed that the tendency to approach military conflicts from the viewpoint that they have been generated by ethnic problems is incorrect. In almost all conflicts the presence of the leftovers of old armies on the territory of the newly independent states can be noticed, thus they become foreign armies on the territories of sovereign states. And this is a source of conflict, just like the presence of the 14th Army on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

We stressed the difficulty of this process and the need for international support to be granted to Russia, both on a psychological plane, as well as material and financial support, to enable it to withdraw its armies from the territories of the newly independent states.

In fact, I held talks on this subject in Istanbul and during the meeting with the four presidents, and again in Helsinki when we met with Mr. Attali [head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development]—something that I told Mr. Boris Yeltsin, as well. The EBRD is ready to financially support the operation of withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. We pointed out that we are willing to support the efforts of building dwellings in the territories where their settlement will be organized.

Since the problems are as we presented them, certainly they are not simple. We are talking about hundreds of thousands of people. In connection with Moldova, we are talking only about 6,000 officers, but in general we are talking about a large number of people and the problem of social and professional integration of those people is certainly not a simple problem. However, the most difficult problems are those of a psychological and political nature brought about by this new situation, just as the former colonial empires like France and Britain, after World War II they underwent a similar process, and they had difficulty in adapting to the new situation, to the recognition of the newly independent states that appeared on the ruins of the old empires.

Today, a similar process on a psychological plane is taking place, and we have to understand it. I think that there is a need for a favorable international climate to readjust the political thinking and the political practice connected with this issue.

In any event, we have believed and continue to believe that these military conflicts on the continent affect—and how can they not—the process of transition toward democracy and the economic development in all this central and eastern part of Europe, along with the overall stability and cooperation in Europe.

As far as the meeting is concerned, I should mention that it represented an important political moment, something that was stressed by all participants, because it attempted to find a set of political and institutional solutions that, on one hand are aimed at seeking ways to ensure peace and security in Europe and on the other are aimed at giving substantial content to the economic support granted to ease relations between the states that attended the CSCE process. These issues were also included in the declaration, I mean the central political document of the Helsinki meeting, in the final act of the negotiations regarding the troops of conventional armed forces—a document that was signed by the presidents and heads of

states present at the conference—and in the declaration on temporary coming into force of the treaty on reducing conventional arms, which was signed foreign ministers in Paris.

A few new elements were established in Helsinki, meaning institutional forms that should ease the promotion of CSCE principles. We are talking here first and foremost about the Security Cooperation Forum and another set of specific mechanisms, such as the Economic Forum within the CSCE, which is the concrete form of an initially Romanian idea, advanced during the Paris Conference and at the subsequent meeting of foreign ministers. This idea was supported by several other states and the United States, namely the setting up of the Institution of High Commissioners of the CSCE for Human Rights and for Minorities in Particular, which will act on the basis of the mandate granted by the committee of the top officials, when it is notified of certain problems.

On the occasion of the meeting, as it has been related in the press, I held several bilateral meetings that regarded mainly two big groups of problems. The first was the state of conflict around us, that is, in Yugoslavia and on the territory of the former Soviet Union, especially Moldova, and the problems of promoting bilateral economic and political cooperation with the respective countries. In this respect we held talks with the presidents of France, Russia, the United States, Canada—I mean the head of the Canadian delegation—Kazakhstan, Bulgaria and the prime ministers of Turkey, Greece, and the representatives of other states.

Regarding these talks, I would like to stress a few ideas and a few problems. First, I would like to mention the bilateral and trilateral talks with Presidents Yeltsin and Snegur. There were several such talks. We particularly discussed the actions initiated after the Istanbul meeting and the measures for the immediate implementation of the Istanbul declaration issued by the four presidents. On that occasion we also reasserted: the joint wish to support peaceful solutions to the conflict in the eastern rayons of Moldova, the importance of military disengagement and seeking practical measures to halt hostilities, the need to initiate negotiations for the withdrawal of the 14th Army, and the importance of ensuring the continuous functioning of the mechanism of four-way consultations, which was instituted even before the Istanbul meeting.

We stressed several fundamental principles that make up the basis of the dialogue and thus of our understandings, namely: the respect for Moldova's sovereignty and independence as a principled element and a premise for any discussions; recognition of the rights of the constitutional institutions of the Republic of Moldova, of the parliament first and foremost, as far as solutions to the status of the eastern rayons and the relations of the state with the national minorities are concerned; and the need to discuss the framework for the withdrawal of the 14th Army's troops; and until this withdrawal the status of this army on the bases of bilateral negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and Russia. We also discussed concrete cease-fire measures, the withdrawal from current positions, withdrawal of heavy equipment from the conflict zone, and the need to ensure the continuous functioning of the four countries' mechanisms, namely the foreign ministers' meeting and the joint commission that is permanently working in the respective area, the issue of military observers, and the actions they have taken so far and will continue to take in the future.

As you well know, at Moldova's suggestion, the issue of contact with the Republic of Byelarus and Bulgaria were also approached for a possible presence of these countries in the talks. The CSCE in general was present at the last two meetings of the foreign ministers and it was established with the CSCE Secretariat that we continue to have a permanent commission of observers. Likewise, at the request of the Republic of Moldova, a UN delegation of observers was present at the talks, and they will draft their conclusions. We have already held discussions with the deputy UN secretary general on the issue of the final draft of the report on the Observers' Commission that visited Chisinau, Tiraspol, Moscow, Kiev, and other places.

Likewise, I would like to stress the assessments of the European forums and the leaders of the delegations with whom I had talks about the activity of the mechanism of the four countries, as well as about Romania's moderate and balanced position in approaching the issue of this conflict. We often refuted the disinformation campaign of the mass media in Moscow regarding Romania's alleged direct military involvement in the conflict in the eastern rayons of Moldova. There were also rumors about Romanian planes and a Romanian pilot, about the presence of Romanian officers and soldiers, which are all lies that we have rejected.

Likewise, in connection with the quantity of weapons from Romania, I can say that we have delivered neither planes nor heavy weapons or tanks and cannons, but defensive weapons at Moldova's request, in the context of Moldova organizing its own national army. The fact that they requested the aforementioned support is the sovereign right of a state to set up its own army, the size that it considers necessary and to turn....

As a matter of fact, our first discussions were with the representatives of the former Soviet Army, Marshal Shaposhnikov and with Russia's leadership. They [Moldovans] have these planes that were taken over from the former USSR Army and the former USSR air force on the territory of Moldova. We mentioned these issues in order to eliminate all misunderstanding and, actually, from the moment that measures were taken to halt hostilities and settle problems these deliveries, stopped. That was support that lasted for only an initial period aimed at assisting Moldova, organizing its law enforcement bodies, and the Moldovan Army.

In Helsinki we received certain encouraging news. Yesterday, I held a talk with President Snegur, after Vice President Rutskoy's visit to Chisinau and Tiraspol. Thus, from this point of view, there are several positive signs in connection with the position of the Russian political leadership to assist the settlement of the conflict and bring them to the negotiation table.

Parliament also resumed activity and invited all deputies and insisted that the deputies from the Dniester region should be present in the activity of the parliament because the parliament is the constitutional institution that should approach basic problems and find solutions to problems that are connected with the settlement of domestic problems in the Republic of Moldova. The parliament is the constitutional institution that should discuss the status, position, and neutralization of the 14th Army and cooperation to find peaceful solutions to all problems.

Thus, there are a few positive signs from this point of view. The approach made by President Yeltsin in Helsinki and what we read in the information that we received there, we have also marked as positive in the efforts to seek political solutions to these problems. We hope that this realistic position of the political forces that approach these problems with realism...because we are also talking about a political confrontation between various tendencies within these countries, which we have to follow objectively [sentence incomplete as heard].

A second issue broached during these meetings was connected with the UN embargo against Yugoslavia and we have reacted to certain assertions made in various press organs, regarding alleged Romanian violations of the embargo against Yugoslavia. You are familiar with the declarations made by the prime minister and the transportation minister in this respect. We have stressed that it is possible... the Danube is an international river. It is not possible for us to control everything that flows on the Danube. We can control only what is on Romanian territory and the loading points in Romanian ports. As a matter of fact, the international regime can permit the transit and passage of cargo that we cannot possibly have under control. As far as we are concerned, we pledged to respect the regulations on the embargo for this period. However, we hope that, ultimately, general solutions will be found to this fundamental problem, which affects us directly and affects our area.

In this respect, we consider the signals received from Belgrade encouraging. I am talking about the declarations of new Prime Minister Panic and the program that the government has proposed to find political solutions to the conflict in general in Yugoslavia and to the relations of the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with Serbia, Montenegro, and the other states that emerged on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. I am also referring to the program to find solutions to the very complicated problem of the internal conflict in Bosnia and to find ways to reach an understanding and political settlement of relations among the three communities that make up Bosnia and Hercegovina, that has become the most acute problem currently.

As you know, I held meetings and talks with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State Baker. During those meetings we noted the positive evolution of our relations and showed appreciation for the administration's act of advancing the commercial accord to the Congress, an accord that will also mean the granting of the most-favored-nation status. We noted the realistic assessments made by the U.S. Administration regarding the events in Moldova. As a matter of fact, it seems that the United States is the only Western country that has already opened an embassy in Chisinau and has an ambassador there and recently had a delegation visiting there. The United States has shown interest with supporting efforts for political solutions to the conflict.

I also held a meeting with France's president, with whom we discussed the evolution of relations between our countries on a political and economic plane. We discussed ways to support—in the upcoming period—bilateral contacts at various levels, making use of the new legal framework that has been created in the relations through signing the treaty; we also discussed need to grant a more substantial support for developing economic relations between our countries and for opening certain credit lines.

Likewise, with Canada we assessed the development of relations between us and the Cernavoda cooperation as positive.

I would like to mention the cordial character of our talks with the president of Kazakhstan. During those talks we discussed prospects for economic cooperation between our countries, taking into consideration the particularly important raw material and energy resources of Kazakhstan. Actually, President Nazarbayev also remarked that the first activities in the field of oil industry and the exploitation of oil resources of Kazakhstan were done with Romanian equipment. However, that was done through Soviet central bodies, and it is natural that we support direct contacts between the two country's ministries and directly between economic companies because we are already partners who know each other.

I would also like to mention the talks held with Mr. Attali, the EBRD head, during which we discussed the possibilities of EBRD financing certain concrete projects to build one or a few bridges over the Danube River that should be a bilateral action with Bulgaria, taking into consideration the [word indistinct] zone in Calafat. We also mentioned a trilateral cooperation with Bulgaria and Turkey, since Turkey is interested in it, as was discussed with Prime Minister Demirel during talks held in Istanbul. This subject is topical, especially since the flow of transit through Romania has increased considerably as a result of the embargo against Yugoslavia. This transit area has become very busy, and crossing the Danube River is slow. The EBRD showed interest in supporting such a project.

Likewise, we mentioned similar projects for the development of railroad connections with the Republic of Moldova. We have a project for a railway connection in the northern part of Moldavia, from Botosani area toward Balti, and a project for railroad with the same gauge in the central and southern part of the Republic of Moldova. Mr. Attali showed readiness to finance such actions on the basis of concrete projects.

We also discussed the increase of the capacity of transit at the border crossing with Hungary, which are also extremely busy lately, and thus we will present joint projects for enlarging the capacity for various portions of the road and for modernizing the crossing points.

It seemed important to me that we can cooperate with this international body on these issues.

Now, a few words about my visits to the two countries: Estonia and Byelarus. These visits were the concrete result of some previous understandings with the two presidents during our meetings in Brazil and Davos. Thus, in Estonia we held dynamic talks with President Ruutel and with other leaders of the republic. On this occasion we signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation. As a matter of fact, this also motivated... [sentence unfinished as heard] There was a question about why exactly in Estonia. Because the joint activity for elaborating this political document with that country were in the most advanced stage and we found it significant to mark the mutual interest in developing relations with Baltic countries.

While discussing economic relations, we found out that there is already a commercial accord signed with Romania as early as 1930, which nobody has annulled. Thus, we said that we already have a legal basis, so we have to adjust it to the current conditions and see in what way can we modernize this accord.

We have found a common language, a common apprehension concerning the problems in Europe, generally and in our zone, the inadmissibility of using force or menacing with force in international relations, the observance of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the new independent states that have emerged lately, the firm position concerning the urgent withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of states where they have been deployed illegally or without having a proper status there, and generally, the necessity of withdrawing them. We also tackled several concrete aspects concerning our consular, political, cultural, and economic relations. As a matter of fact, a representative of our Trade Ministry remained there to continue talks in that respect.

During our talks in Byelarus we also noted the importance of the event in developing relations among our states. That was my first visit to a CIS member state, but also the continuation of the talks I had with President Shushkevich in Davos and Rio. We signed a common declaration setting the juridical framework of our bilateral cooperation, on the basis of which a treaty is going to be elaborated. That treaty will be signed sometime in the future, as we expressed our wish that President Shushkevich pay a visit to Romania to sign the treaty together with the person who will be Romania's president at that time. We expect that treaty to be signed before the end of this year.

We briefed each other on the evolution of the situation in our countries, noting a large number of common problems and difficulties related to the process of our restructuring—especially in the economy, in the promotion of economic reform, and the transition toward a market economy—so we were able to see the importance of further contacts, of further exchange of experience concerning the way we deal with those problems. Furthermore, we both expressed our interest in developing direct economic ties, as there are many common aspects there, too, if one is to take similarities within our economic structures into consideration.

We saluted the constructive and balanced position of Byelarus concerning the conflict situation in the Republic of Moldova, the appeal issued by the Presidium of the Byelarus Parliament being a positive element in this sense.

Besides our efforts to develop ties with countries in that area, our Foreign Minister is now visiting in certain Asian states of the former Soviet Union—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

This was a brief introductory statement.

Seeing that there has been an uproar in the country about President Iliescu having postponed to promulgate electoral bills, and seeing that ROMANIA LIBERA is hurrying to make all kind of false and slanderous assessments—and it is not the first time it has done so—I can show you the address of the Constitutional Court, which was issued and officially sent to Romania's president on 14 July, in which it is forwarding him the bill regulating the election of senate and the chamber of deputies and the election of the president. Well, I signed those bills on the very same day—14 July—so they have been promulgated and sent to Parliament to be published in MONITORUL OFICIAL. Thus, Romania's president was not a single day late, as I had studied those bills before, during the time they were being examined by the Constitutional Court, thus being able to sign them immediately. As anyone can see, Romania's President did not even use up the regular time he is granted by law for the examination of those bills.

I mentioned all this to give you truthful information and to put an end to disinformation and to that game of circulating false pieces of information, which—as I said—has not been the sole such case. Nevertheless, I am a collected person and that game of words and allegations, by which certain people are pursuing their political interests, do not impress me at all.

I thank you for your attention.

I am ready to answer your questions.

Answers Reporters' Questions

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[Editorial Report] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian at 0716 GMT on 16 July carries live a news conference by President Ion Iliescu at Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest. Before answering questions, Iliescu makes an introductory statement on the Istanbul Black Sea Conference and the Helsinki CSCE Summit he attended, as well as on his official visits in Estonia and Byelarus.

The one hour and 40 minute question-and-answer session begins at 0746 GMT with a question concerning the peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict and the role that Romania and Ukraine can play now that the leadership of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova seem to have directly contacted each other, Iliescu confirms that "events have really taken a positive turn," highlighting the importance of the four-way efforts—both at state leadership and at foreign minister levels—in reaching the current stage of disengagement. At the same time, Iliescu expresses his regrets over "the point of tension persisting in Tighina [Bendery]," which in his assessment is due to the fact that the separatists' "armed guards are reluctant to give up their position and allow the implementation of resolutions agreed upon during the four-way talks, the direct talks between the Russian and Moldovan presidents, and even during talks conducted with Dniester authorities." Law and order cannot be reinstated in Tighina because of the attitude of the guardsmen, "who would not obey anyone, not even people in Tiraspol."

Iliescu terms it "a fundamental fact" that the Russian leadership is willing to officially admit that "we are dealing with the territory of a sovereign and independent state" and "that the 14th Army is a foreign—and not neutral—force deployed on Moldova's territory."

Assessing Romania's future role in the settlement of the conflict, Iliescu says "that role remains the same as before, meaning a political participation in endorsing those efforts within the existing four-way mechanism."

After a question related to the newly created office of the CSCE High Commissioners for Human Rights and Minorities, Iliescu says that during the Helsinki summit, the Romanian Foreign Ministry elaborated and disseminated a "white book on the rights of ethnic minorities in Romania" with the purpose of bringing light to the issue "under the circumstances that false information is being circulated in the world concerning the situation of minorities in Romania." The truth is—Iliescu asserts—that ethnic minorities represent 10 percent of the country's entire population, which is the same percentage as in Hungary, and that "we would be happy to see the minority group of Romanians living on other states' territory to be granted at least similar rights to those ensured for national minorities living in Romania." In Iliescu's opinion, Romania has "no reason to have an inferiority complex related to this issue; on the contrary, we are perhaps at a top level, compared to the way any other European state treats its national minorities."

Asked to comment on a biographical item published in the 15 July issue of ROMANIA LIBERA, Iliescu reluctantly answers that he finds it "morbid" that the "press is penetrating people's hearts with its boots on." Iliescu says that there is nothing unusual about "people having been abandoned by their natural mothers and then brought up by adoptive mothers," rebuffing allegations about his father having been a member of the old communist nomenklatura.

Iliescu then deplores "so much hate, so much bitterness, so much venom, and lack of respect" manifested by the opposition press against his person, asking what it would "gain by rummaging about" in people's pasts. "Is that a democratic press?" he asks, pointing out that the press "first of all means responsibility" and "respect, if the press wants to be respected in turn." Iliescu then also mentions that he has nothing to hide about his past, and thus he does not fear the consequences of some person's call he heard: "Let us begin with Iliescu's Securitate file!" He mentions that he has gotten accustomed to being kept under constant surveillance over the last 20 years and that he now sees that "the same former Securitate informers are still doing the same job today." Iliescu does not answer a part of the question about his possible acceptance of the nomination to the presidency by the extremist Romania Mare Party.

Answering a question about whether a "gentle" dictatorship would be better for Romania —considering the current "chaos" in the country—Iliescu says that such a thing would be contrary to the option of the Romanian people, although democracy does not implicitly mean "lack of self control," as in the case he discussed before. Total liberty does not mean "being allowed to run around naked in the street" or "returning to primitive life in the jungle," but observance of "certain norms of respect for each other."

Being asked to comment on the "geographical expansion of the CSCE process from Vancouver to Vladivostok," Iliescu explains that he finds it a normal process because now that the former Soviet Union has disintegrated, it is only natural that the independent states that were its followers should also be integrated in the CSCE process.

The next question begins with the reporter stating that "there are currently three Romanias," the other two countries—Bessarabia and Bukovine—being "territories torn away from our country's body." The reporter than says that besides Russia and Ukraine, Romania's Parliament—which has hastily acknowledged Moldova's independence— also contributed to this "serious" situation. Iliescu is also blamed for having stated in an interview with Russian Television that "the Dniester region is not Romanian land." The question is: "Have you included in your electoral program, as an absolute priority issue, the reunification of Romania?"

Iliescu's answer begins with a brief historical review, mentioning that those "Romanian territories were occupied by Russia—without any historical or juridical rights—in 1812, after the Russian-Turkish war" when "Turkey conceded territories that in fact never belonged to it." "Another important moment was 1940, the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, when the Soviet Union managed to achieve even more than what the tsars did." He then points it out that according to his knowledge "no one in the world would currently support Romania if it claimed" those territories and that "if we want to be backed, we have to begin with the premise of existing international regulations: the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter, and the acknowledgment of existing state frontiers and of their inviolability," also mentioning that doing so would not completely "rule out a peaceful solution of that problem." Concerning his statement to Russian Television, Iliescu says he "never said that the Dniester region was non-Romanian or not Romanian; I only said that it did not belong to Romania at the moment when the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact was signed." Regarding the issue of having "hastily" acknowledged Moldova's independence, Iliescu points it out that about 100 countries have acknowledged Moldova and it would have been unacceptable if Romania—of all the states in the world—had not done so. In conclusion, Iliescu asserts that in his opinion and for the time being, development of economic and cultural ties with Moldova, eventually leading to their full integration in those spheres, is the sole "realistic" policy to be promoted.

President Iliescu continues, discussing the election campaign. He says: "It is not up to me to make assessments about the candidate whom various political formations have appointed." It is "each one's right to assess which of the candidates has the greatest chances. I can only wish each of them success in this electoral campaign. The one who will be voted by the electorate will receive a national mandate." The only thing "I want to say is that I hope it will be a civilized campaign based on mutual esteem and respect."

"The problems faced by Romania today at the socioeconomic level, in domestic affairs, and in international relations are common national problems and a question of national interest, regardless of our political options." It is important "to rally all creative forces around the difficult problems that will continue to face Romanian society; the coming four years will be years of great national efforts to take the Romanian economy out of this crisis and to place it on a sound foundation." What is needed is "to find a framework for civilized dialogue and cohesion of the national forces who are interested in solving our great national problems." In this regard, "I want to say that I am ready for cooperation with anyone in the future."

Asked whether newly appointed Prime Minister Panic will be able to take Federal Yugoslavia out of the deadlock, especially internationally, and how long the embargo will last, Iliescu says that without having detailed knowledge on Panic's program, it seems that "it contains reasonable elements aimed primarily at settling problems to ensure a peaceful solution to the conflict as soon as possible." He continues to say, "it is difficult for me to forecast how long it will take to solve these problems and when the embargo will be stopped."

Regarding Mitterrand's proposal on an international conference on Yugoslavia, Iliescu says "we have greeted this idea of President Mitterrand; we have always been ready to participate in such events whenever our presence was useful."

To a question about his recent visits to Byelarus, Iliescu says that "the hosts made a point of including in our program a visit to one of the villages that were completely destroyed during the German occupation and where an open-air museum has now been organized. After a further detailed description of what he saw in this village, Iliescu continues by pointing out that Byelarus was heavily affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident and that "70 percent of the affected areas" were in that country.

Asked what he had discussed with President Bush, Iliescu says that "my discussion with President Bush, which was actually followed by lengthy meetings by Foreign Minister Nastase and Mr. Baker, mainly referred to our bilateral relations and the open attitude of the United States in connection with which President Bush said that he had no kind of resentment toward Romania and Romania's political leadership, that the problem of the political leadership was the problem of the option of the Romanian electorate, and that they will conduct a dialogue with those people who have been entrusted with a mandate by the Romanian electorate." Iliescu then stresses that "I greeted the opening that I noted in our relations in general, especially following Mr. Eagleburger's visit" to Romania.

About Moldova, Iliescu says that "I told Mr. Baker that I appreciated his statement on the events in Moldova. I noted a correct and objective perception of the nature of this conflict and of the events."

To a question on the trial of communism and the elimination of former structures and Romania's position in this respect, President Iliescu points out that "this is a historic, but not easy process, which regards all aspects of the social activity: political relations, human ties—which are the most complicated—the structures and mechanisms of the economic activity, and the social consequences of the economy." After discussing theoretical aspects, Iliescu says that "the readjustment, the transition is a complicated process. In the political arena, things—especially as far as we are concerned—are solved relatively swiftly. In the past two years we achieved fundamental, radical changes in our political activity. Of course this process continues, but the image of the Romanian society has radically changed. This is also true as far as citizens rights and freedoms are concerned; and it is true when it comes to the possibility

of people to express their views, to demonstrate, and organize themselves. As can be noted, the economy is a much more complicated area. Without going into details, efforts have been made at the level of institutions and by the legislature; despite the criticism voiced against the parliament, more than 100 laws regard exactly the field of economic reform and the creation of the necessary legislative and institutional framework to promote the market economy. However, this is a process that needs additional efforts."

After theorizing about the difference between ethnic and national minorities in response to a question, Iliescu is asked what his major mistakes have been. In response, he says that "to err is human. Error is part of our activity." He continues to say that "It is difficult to foresee everything that will happen, and things cannot be repeated, just as the past cannot be repeated." He says that "undoubtedly, many moments in our development can be viewed critically as can some of our personal decisions adopted or accepted under certain circumstances," many "things could have been solved more calmly, but this is easy to say in hindsight. Many people accuse me because of the situation in December and that I was allegedly concealing the truth in connection with the unfolding of the events. There is nothing to conceal; these are things I myself expect to be clarified in time. However, history has to continue its course, regardless of our ability or inability to clarify everything. Regarding University Square, I tried to establish a dialogue with the initiators of this action at that time, but I was unable."

Iliescu continues to say that "I am blamed for the coming or not coming of the miners to Bucharest. I have openly answered these questions before the public and before the commission that investigated the events in September 1991; I did not directly call the miners to Bucharest. But this is how events took place at that time." He adds that "I have been criticized for thanking the miners. I expressed thanks for what they deserved to be thanked for, because they proved civic spirit when they responded—as a normal reaction—to the unfettered forces of order; but, at the same time, I separated this positive element from the violent actions that took place in Bucharest." He also says that "undoubtedly, I had my weaknesses and made errors; I do not believe that anyone can say that he is infallible and unable to make mistakes under very difficult circumstances of tension and social crisis."

In response to a question on loans by international bodies and the upgrading of Romanian technology, Iliescu says that "our relations with international financial bodies are relations based on supply and demand; thus, if you do not need anything, you do not apply for loans; if you are able to cope by yourself, you do not appeal to anyone. From this point of view, those bodies cannot impose anything. But when they make their offer, then the psychology of any supplier comes into play; when you loan money you have to have guarantees that you will receive your money back." He continues by discussing the financial aid received by the former GDR from West Germany saying "who else can depend on such great financial support. We are discussing 1 billion in credits, not aid. [currency not specified] As for Russia, all financial forces in the world have been mobilized; we are talking of some 24 billion. Well, just compare 24 billion for Russia with the 120 billion for the former GDR. This is an objective reality that has to be taken into consideration. You have to calculate what you demand, what is being offered to you, and how you make the most effective use of it."

Asked how he views a possible military presence in Moldova as a deterrent force, President Iliescu says that "for the time being, the Romanian military are represented only by our representatives in the joint commission, in the military observers commission that is cooperating with the local bodies to reestablish peace. The possibility of disengagement forces was mentioned, but as President Snegur specified yesterday in the document adopted by the Supreme Security and Defense Council about a convention with Russia, if need be they will appeal for a disengagement force. Maybe these forces will not be needed if things proceed as they have been foreseen in the past days, that is to solve things only through the presence of the observers within the four-way mechanism." He adds that "in case our support is needed for such groups of disengagement forces, we will respond positively. We have said this before when asked by the Republic of Moldova."

Regarding his motto for the election campaign and his possible "defects or rather weaknesses," Iliescu says "I have not gone beyond the stage of thinking; I have to work out my own strategy," in "this electoral competition. As I said at the beginning," the "platform I want to present is an appeal" to "lend this electoral campaign a civic note of decency and mature political atmosphere." Of importance in this competition are "the moral qualities and the integrity of the people" involved in this competition "who aspire for a political mandate and who want to serve the interests of the nation and of the country and not personal privileges." Regardless of "who is going to be president, the country's problems will be the same." What the country needs are "people who have the competence to deal with these problems, to establish priorities in solving them, and to have the necessary dedication and spirit of sacrifice to try to solve these problems. We have to have the moral strength to create an atmosphere of cohesion around these big problems linked to the problems of the economy, its modernization, an appropriate dynamism, so that we are able to come out of this crisis of the Romanian economy. We have to create the necessary preconditions for relaunching the economy on modern bases." He then says that "it is a general requirement for any political formation and any competitor for this political mandate to ensure social protection at the level of the possibilities available in Romanian society. A major objective is to reduce social costs that affect large strata of the population. A third objective is to protect national interests at the political and economic level. Here I have to mention:

How do we ensure Romania's place within the context of present-day economic development? I believe that, despite our great difficulties, we have several preconditions." Thus, "we have some preconditions and our country's natural resources." Then "we have the human potential," and we "have educated young people, despite all the shortcomings of our schools."

President Iliescu continues by discussing his personal faults. He says "I think that I have accumulated a certain experience throughout my life; this is a useful capital, regardless of what public position I am holding." However, "I do have my weaknesses." Many "people argue that I have too many duties, too many prerogatives as the president. I think that—as our Constitution stipulates—the president's prerogatives are well defined; I have not exceeded these prerogatives." But "maybe sometimes it would have been necessary to more clearly and decisively define the president's position in connection with certain problems. From this point of view, a certain tolerance, which has always characterized me, can become a defect under certain circumstances. But I think that at times of great social tension it can also be a quality. Maybe I was unable to capitalize on this quality to conduct a more sustained dialogue."

In response to a question on the "unfavorable press campaign" by the Western world against Romania, Iliescu says that there have been instances of "incisive mass media reaction—I am referring to Moscow—that has influenced certain international press circles regarding Romania's involvement in the Moldovan conflict," and "about the embargo against Yugoslavia." But, "there have also been signs of goodwill and objective reporting on the situation in Romania and the development of things, and I can tell you that during my recent contacts, I generally noted a positive appreciation of the moderation role played by Romania in this conflict zone. The fact that we are located in the center of conflicts—both to the west and northwest—Romania, and its international policy, constitute an oasis of calm and moderation. Thus, things have to be judged on a whole."

Asked whether a government reshuffle is possible before the elections in the fall, Iliescu says that "I have noted various discussions that appeared in the press and within political formations; I just exchanged views with the prime minister. Considering the short time available, the prime minister is to judge whether a reshuffling is needed. What is important is to ensure a normal functioning of the government in this period, to eliminate any suspicion about the government's capability to ensure this electoral campaign and its capability to solve the economic and social problems facing the country during this period until the new government is formed. Therefore, I am careful not to influence or destabilize the government." On the contrary, "I want to support it so that it is able to overcome this stage and so that we are able to form a new cabinet on the basis of the new options of the electorate."

Asked whether he shares the ideas of his ally—the Democratic National Salvation Front [FDSN]—and whether he has "signed a treaty with the USSR that has not been validated by Romania's Parliament," President Iliescu says, "I have noted a lot of misinterpretations of certain of my affirmations regarding the application of the Land Law." He continues by discussing property rights, forms of organizing agricultural activity and management in Romania compared to other countries, and forms of agricultural associations compared with other former communist countries.

Regarding the treaty with the USSR, he says that "since the USSR was dissolved, the treaty with the USSR lapsed," but "I would not deny it certain virtues, such as the denouncement of the Ribbentrop- Molotov Pact, which we cannot mention in other treaties on which we are working today. Thus, that treaty should not necessarily be viewed negatively." There was "nothing to ratify for the parliament," because that treaty "actually lost the objective for which it was concluded."

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached at London Talks

LD1707143592 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1427 GMT 17 Jul 92

[By David Mason]

[Text] Leaders of the three warring communities in Bosnia today signed a ceasefire agreement at the talks in London. The two-week ceasefire is to start from 6pm Sunday local time, said John Kennedy, adviser to Dr Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs. He said heavy weaponry would be supervised, but not controlled, by the UN.

The right of refugees to return to their homes was accepted. There was a commitment to follow-up talks after a cooling-off period but no date had been set.

Adrian Bedford, executive secretary of the talks aimed at ending the bloodshed which has claimed more than 7,500 lives in the former Yugoslav republic, said leaders of Serbs, Muslims and Croats had signed the document this afternoon.

Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats, said the document called for: A long and lasting ceasefire; the return of all refugees to their homes; a commitment to follow-up peace talks in London.

Earlier Mr Boban said: "This document will not in any way prejudge any talks on the future constitutional arrangement of Bosnia-Hercegovina. This is only to stop the fighting and the killing of civilians." But he said despite the intention of the document he did not believe it would stop the bloodshed, which has already claimed more than 7,500 lives in the former Yugoslav republic.

Lord Carrington, chairman of the peace conference, was due to give more details of the talks at a news conference later today. Earlier Mr Major appealed to heads of governments worldwide to step up efforts to alleviate the "appalling humanitarian conditions" in Yugoslavia. In a dramatic message he urged them to show support by sending ministers to the July 29 Geneva conference on the crisis proposed by Mrs Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Croatian Leader Discusses Peace Talks

LD1607230392 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1652 GMT 16 Jul 92

[By John von Radowitz]

[Excerpt] Talks in London aimed at bringing peace to Bosnia inched forward today with the war-torn republic's Croatian leader agreeing to continue negotiating without preconditions.

The promise by Mate Boban during a 1-hour meeting was about all that emerged during the second day of talks behind closed doors. Mr Boban's meeting with Portuguese diplomat Jose Cutileiro, chief EC negotiator in the Bosnian talks, marked the end of stage one of the talks at the Carlton Tower hotel in Knightsbridge. At a news conference later, Mr Boban, speaking through an interpreter, said: "Today the question was to cement that we would continue with the talks without any preconditions, and we told them that we will accept the talks without preconditions." Asked if there had been any suggestion of the talks being halted, he said: "I'm not aware of the decisions of the other two sides in regard to the continuation of talks." Mr Boban said he also spoke to Mr Cutileiro and his advisers about "some important political and military situation in the Republic".

Representatives of the three warring factions—Serbs, Croats and Muslims—were understood to be pressing ahead with a second phase of talks with Mr Cutileiro today. Meetings were held on Wednesday [15 July] both with Mr Cutileiro and former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who is chairing the overall EC peace conference on Yugoslavia. Lord Carrington was not at the hotel today. The talks got off to an unpromising start on Wednesday with Bosnia's Muslim Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic denouncing Dr Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, as a "war criminal" and declaring: "I will not sit with a child-killer." This was after Dr Karadzic had told Lord Carrington he would accept the opening of a land corridor for humanitarian aid to beleaguered Sarajevo.

Mr Boban remained hopeful today. He said: "I am more than optimistic, but there are very important and very deep problems in Bosnia-Hercegovina." He warned: "Without the action and understanding of the European Community and the world these problems will cause one of the largest massacres in the world up to date." But there was no sign of any reconciliation with Dr Karadzic. Mr Boban said: "He wants to force Bosnia-Hercegovina into a Serbian province or to force Bosnia-Hercegovina to enter a new association with Yugoslavia.

"He is not well intentioned in the context of the principles of the EC." Mr Boban said that despite the slow progress he believed the talks should carry on. But he called on more effort from the world community to help find a solution, adding that he understood more than 100,000 civilians had already died in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

UK's Hurd Talks With Presidency in Sarajevo

AU1707092392 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Dzevded Tuzlic report from Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency]

[Excerpt] The British Foreign Secretary, who on 1 July assumed the role of the chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, arrived at the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency 10 minutes ago, together with his delegation. They were

received by Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, Ejub Ganic and Mirko Pejanovic, Presidency members, and Bosnia-Hercegovina Prime Minister Jure Pelivan.

It is envisaged that the talks will last approximately 75 minutes. The British delegation, that is to say, Mr. Hurd, personally expressed a wish to visit Vaso Miskin Street and sign the book of mourning that is a testimony to the crimes committed upon the innocent victims of the aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached on Transfer of Population

AU1707145492 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Risto Dogo report from Sarajevo]

[Excerpt] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is paying an official visit to Sarajevo today. When he arrived in the presidency building an explosion was heard in the city center. According to the scenario that has already been seen, such explosions are simply staged whenever prominent foreigners arrive here or whenever a more important event is taking place. So, four citizens were wounded on Vaso Miskin Street. The world should finally realize what is happening. It is enough to be in the town to see and hear from which positions fire is being opened.

The Muslim forces today carried out an attack on the Serbian positions in Grbavica and Hrasno. [Words indistinct] artillery attack by the Muslim forces came from Igman and Kovaci toward Ilidza, Vojkovici, and Kasindol Street. At the same time, Nedjarici was attacked from Mojmilo Hill. The Muslim forces are opening artillery fire on other Serb positions, too. These attacks are regularly reported to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force].

Today, we were told by the authorized representatives of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina that an agreement has been reached on the free and temporary transfer of citizens. Both sides agreed that all residents of Sarajevo can freely cross with their hand baggage between 18 and 20 July from the territory held by the Serbian forces to the territory held by the Territorial Defense of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and vice verse. The free transfer is guaranteed by the civilian and military authorities. Daily crossings would last between 0900 and 1600 [0700 and 1400 GMT] and would take place at 10 points in the town. The agreement would be fully realized in the presence and cooperation of UNPROFOR. The Muslim side has not confirmed this yet, although it has promised that this will be done in an agreement with UNPROFOR and the other side. However, a definite reply has not been made yet.

Douglas Hurd is expected to meet Nikola Koljevic, member of the Presidency of the Serbia Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, at the Sarajevo airport this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Serb Army Issues Gorazde Cease-Fire Order

LD1607190892 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1838 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Pale, 16 Jul (TANJUG)—The Serbian Republic of Bosnia- Hercegovina's Army headquarters tonight announced that an order had been given to all its forces throughout Gorazde on a complete cease-fire, except in cases of extreme necessity and to protect the lives of its fighters.

This order was issued by the Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina's Army headquarters, despite the fact that Muslim leaders have been organizing a broad offensive in the past few days with large forces in the direction of Gorazde and have been committing mass atrocities against the Serbian population in this area. The statement adds that the headquarters once again wants to initiate a cessation of armed conflicts and to facilitate the search for a political solution through negotiations.

The Serbian Army headquarters statement concludes that "full responsibility for maintaining the cease-fire lies with the Muslim fighters and their military and political masters. It will be sufficient for them not to open fire and for the weapons in this area to fall silent. The Serbian side will not be the first to take action, but it will not suffer unnecessary losses on account of the political imprudence, megalomania, and mistaken ideas of Alija's fundamentalists."

UK's Hurd Arrives, Holds Talks With Tudjman

LD1607150492 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Douglas Hurd, UK foreign secretary and EC chairman, and his aides arrived in Zagreb from Lubljana this afternoon.

Immediately after his arrival, the head of the British diplomatic service had a meeting with Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman in Villa Zagorje. On the Croatian side, the talks are being attended by Prime Minister Dr. Franjo Greguric; Hrvoje Sarinic, head of the president's office; Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Milan Ramljak; Dr. Zdenko Skrabalo and Dr. Miomir Zuzul, minister and deputy minister, respectively, of foreign affairs; Dr. Zeljko Bujas, Croatian ambassador in Great Britain; Dr. Dragutin Stambuk, plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Croatia in London; and Dr. Zeljko Matic, the president's foreign policy adviser.

As we have just reported, Douglas Hurd, Britain's foreign secretary and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, and his aides arrived in Zagreb by plane at about 1300. At Zagreb's Pleso Airport, he stated:

[Begin recording, in English] The main reason is that for the next six months I hold the chair of the European Council of Ministers. [end recording]

[Reporter] Over the next few days, the minister is faced with a full program of visits to the Republic of former Yugoslavia. The purpose of his visits is to gain an insight into the situation and the real state of affairs, because for the next six months he will chair the EC Council of Ministers. Without this insight, Mr. Hurd says, he would have not accepted his position. It is one thing to meet in Brussels, London, or The Hague with the president of Croatia and the leaders of former Yugoslavia, but it is quite another to come here and find out on the spot what actually is happening. It is very important to hear about it from the horse's mouth. The minister concluded by saying that he has no plan in his pocket, but has come here to be able to do everything possible for peace in the region.

Makes Statements Following Talks

LD1607200892 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report on meeting between Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd by correspondent Tihomir Vinkovic in Zagreb on 16 July, Hurd speaks in English with superimposed translation into Croatian; passages within quotation marks are remarks by Hurd that are audible in English—recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Vinkovic] Shortly after 1330, Douglas Hurd, British foreign secretary and president of the EC, arrived at Vila Zagorje from Zagreb Airport, where he had talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. After the talks, President Tudjman said:

[Tudjman] We had fairly long and very interesting talks with Mr. Hurd. Great Britain is taking over the task of the leading role in the EC, and Mr. Hurd has come to the capitals of the states that have emerged on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, both to familiarize himself and to assist in seeking a solution with regard to halting the war and finding a way of establishing peace and order in these lands. We presented the Croatian viewpoints, which in their general views are completely in accordance with the efforts of the EC. We wished Mr. Hurd success in his mission, indicating, in particular, the problem of the continuing occupation of Croatian regions by the former Yugoslav-Communist Army and Serbian-Montenegrin Army in the region of Dubrovnik and the threat to Croatian lands from Bosnia in the region of Bosanska Posavina from Slavonski Brod to Zupanja.

Another problem that is very serious for Croatia is the tens of thousands of new refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina, who now total more than 340,000. We met with the understanding of Mr. Hurd's delegation, who agreed that the assistance of the international community is needed here.

[Vinkovic] Secretary Hurd said the following about the talks:

[Hurd] "We had a very good talk. The president was very open and cordial with me, and presented informally" We had useful talks. The president agreed with me. I informally introduced the British ambassador in Croatia to the president, who will soon receive his credentials, and I met the future Croatian ambassador to Great Britain. So our relations will develop at a high level.

As the president said, we had lengthy talks about various aspects of this crisis. On behalf of Great Britain and the European Community, I said that we would help solve humanitarian problems and the problem of refugees, which is reflected most on those who suffer, and on Croatia, which is receiving the majority of refugees. These are, however, the consequences and not the causes of suffering. We discussed how the European Community and the international community would exert pressure aimed at securing the realization of two basic principles: the integrity of borders of the Yugoslav republics and the respect for minority rights within these borders.

We talked, in particular, about the problem of Croatia and also about the problem of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Both of us underscored the inviolability of the Bosnia-Hercegovina borders and the importance of this issue, which is supported both by the European Community and by Croatia. We also talked about the importance of the integrity of the Bosnia-Hercegovina borders and the need to respect the rights of the three communities in Bosnia-Hercegovina as a single state.

"So for me, it has been a very useful" So these were very useful talks, and I shall take very useful information, which the president has given me, to other stops on my

journey. "impressions, which the [illegible] has been good at giving. Thank you very much."

[Vinkovic] Secretary Hurd is leaving for a border spot in the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] zone near Petrinja. He will also meet UNPROFOR representatives at Zagreb Airport Pleso at 1800 today and representatives of the European Community observer mission in Croatia in a Zagreb hotel after 2000. [end recording]

Government To Send Refugees to Other Countries

LD1607190692 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] The Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today sent a note to the embassies of the republics of Italy, Austria, Slovenia, and Hungary in Zagreb informing them that refugees from Bosnia-Hercegovina are to be sent to their countries.

The note says that about 1,200 Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees are to set off today by train from Slavonski Brod to Italy while 800 are going to Slovenia and about 800 to Austria. Around 500 Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees are to go by bus from Pozega to Hungary. They are predominantly women and children who have not been registered in Croatia—the Republic of Croatia is only allowing them to pass through its territory, the note says.

The note goes on to say that because of the permanent bombardment of Slavonski Brod, The Republic of Croatia can no longer guarantee the safety of many refugees accommodated in the town. Therefore, the Croatian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is again asking for understanding in settling the problem, the note says in conclusion.

RSK Reports 'Gradual Normalization' on Battlefronts

LD1707040892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2229 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Knin, July 16 (TANJUG)—The army headquarters of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) on Thursday [16 July] said that the situation on the battlefronts was marked by gradual normalization and respect of the ceasefire on both sides, apart from sporadic fire, opened by Croatian forces on Mt. Kordun and in northern Dalmatia.

The RSK was proclaimed by Serbs in territories within the administrative borders of Croatia in which they make up a majority population. They do not accept the secession from Yugoslavia and the curtailing of their rights by the Croatian authorities.

Following last year's clashes between the Croatian forces on one side and local Serbs and the Yugoslav People's Army on the other, around 14,000 blue helmets were deployed in the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA).

The RSK army statement says that Croatian forces have been delaying their withdrawal from the pink zones of sectors south and north.

The two sectors cover Knin krajina, one of the three RSK regions, and the pink zones are territories with a majority Serb or mixed population which were originally outside the UNPA but were later also placed under U.N. protection.

The U.N. Security Council has set an ultimatum to Croatia to withdraw its forces from the zones, threatening with imposing sanctions against it if it declines to do so.

Efforts and mediation by UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] officials to make the Croatian Army command withdraw its troops have not yielded any tangible results so far, says the statement.

International

Army Withdrawal From UN Areas Discussed

LD1707042092 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2244 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 16 (TANJUG)—Borisav Jovic, the chairman of the Yugoslav Committee for Cooperation with the United Nations, and General Satish Nambiar, the commander-in-chief of a U.N. Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), discussed in Belgrade on Thursday [16 July] relocation outside Croatia of the Army of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) after UNPROFOR took control in all U.N. Protected Areas (UNPA's).

UNPA's have been formed in the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which was proclaimed last year in parts of the administative territory of Croatia by the local majority Serb population in response to Croatia's secession from Yugoslavia.

Under a U.N. peace plan, the Yugoslav Army is to pull out of the UNPAS after the deployment of UNPROFOR. The plan envisages also for the disarming of the Serb and all other armed groupings.

A statement released after the talk [passage indistinct] Jovic and Gen. Nambiar had discussed in detail the pace of the Yugoslav Army's withdrawal from the Dubrovik area and the problem of the peninsula of Prevlaka on the Croatian-Montenegrin border. Montenegro is one of the two federal units of the FRY.

The talk was attended by Gen. Philippe Morillon, Gen. Nambiar's second-in-command, Cedric Thornberry, the director of the UNPROFOR civilian component, and Nikola Cicanovi, ambassador at the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry.

Federal

Committees Reject Council of Europe Decision

LD1607221992 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1931 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 16 (TANJUG)—Two committees of parliament of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) have expressed profound disagreement with a decision adopted by the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe to take away from Yugoslavia its special guest status in the assembly and have assessed it as contrary to the principles of interparliamentary cooperation.

On July 1 this year the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe decided without any explanation to take away from the assembly of the F.R.Y. the special guest status it acquired in that forum in 1989.

The foreign affairs and foreign economic relations committees of the Chamber of Citizens and Chamber of Republics of the Assembly of the F.R.Y. have found the decision opposed to the generally accepted universal principles of interparliamentary cooperation and the need for the closest possible cooperation at all levels in Europe, a statement released on Thursday [16 July] said.

The statement noted that the Yugoslav Assembly had its special guest status in the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe taken away after the Federal Assembly of the F.R.Y was constituted on the generally accepted principles of parliamentary democracy and as a result of multiparty elections.

"By the declaration of Yugoslav parliament of April 27, 1992, the F.R.Y. has fully accepted all basic principles of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki and Paris Charters, and the CSCE, including the principles of parliamentary democracy, market economy and respect of human rights and rights of national minorities," the statement recalled.

It concluded by expressing the hope that the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, "having perceived the overall situation on the basis of objectively established facts, will reconsider the adopted decision and change it."

Panic Receives Russian Ambassador, Congratulations

LD1607174992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1655 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jul (TANJUG)—FRY Prime Minister Milan Panic today received Gennadiy Shikin, Russian ambassador to Yugoslavia, and had lengthy and friendly talks with him.

Ambassador Shikin handed to Milan Panic a letter from Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. Gaydar congratulated Panic on his election to the post of prime minister of the federal government and expressed the conviction that Panic's work would have beneficial effects on Russian-Yugoslav relations. Moreover, Gaydar expressed hope that Panic's energetic efforts to resolve the Yugoslav crisis would be successful.

Ambassador Shakin also delivered to Panic a letter from Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Kozyrev passed along his congratulations to Panic on his election and expressed the hope that his election would mark the turning point in the developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He also offered Russia's firm support.

Prime Minister Discusses Aims of Mitterrand Talks

LD1607221492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2022 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 16 (TANJUG)—Milan Panic, the prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

(F.R.Y.), said he would get down to action in order to help end the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In an interview to a group of French reporters on Thursday [16 July] evening, on the eve of his visit to France where he is scheduled to meet President Francois Mitterrand, Mr Panic said his first priority was to visit Sarajevo and open peace talks.

He said he would aim at inducing the warring sides to deposit their armament in zones where it might be placed under the control of the United Nations.

"I shall do all I can to deliver personally the first Serb tank to UNPROFOR (a U.N. protection force)," Mr Panic said.

The French news agency AFP quotes Mr Panic as paying tribute to the French president for his initiative for resolving the Yugoslav crisis.

Mitterrand is probably the best qualified to achieve peace, both because of his personal authority and his courage which he demonstrated when he visited (the Bosnian war-ravaged capital) Sarajevo, said Mr Panic and added that he would offer Mitterrand proof that there is at least one Serb who can be trusted when he speaks of peace.

The Croats must withdraw their troops to Croatia, and Serb troops, wherever they still remain, must return to Serbia, said Mr Panic to the French reporters. The AFP quotes him as promising to cut all assistance to Serb irregulars in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Mr Panic, a Belgrade-born U.S. businessman, said he would visit Sarajevo very soon and open talks with all interested parties.

Bosnia-Hercegovina's Moslems and Croats have for three months been fighting the local Serbs.

DEPOS Supports Cosic's Peace Efforts

LD1607095492 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2125 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, July 15 (TANJUG)—The Democratic Movement of Serbia, DEPOS, on Wednesday [15 July] supported efforts made by Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Prime Minister Milan Panic towards the earliest possible establishing of peace on the territory of former Yugoslavia, which would lead to the lifting of United Nations' sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The leadership of the newly-formed united opposition forum DEPOS positively assessed the federal authorities' partial readiness to organize as soon as possible round-table talks between the authorities and the opposition, call free elections, establish necessary democratic institutions and lift the ruling party's monopoly on the media.

DEPOS, which organized eight-day demonstrations against the Serbian leadership outside the Federal Parliament in Belgrade in late June and early July, said it did not give up its principal demands: The organization of true round-table talks between the authorities and the opposition, the calling of elections for a constituent Assembly and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's stepping down.

Army Chief Arrives at Kotor Bay on Naval Tour

LD1607160792 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1442 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Herceg Novi, July 16 (TANJUG)—Chief of Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia Lieutenant General Zivota Panic on Thursday [16 July] arrived in the Bay of Kotor on southern Adriatic coast, where he met with President of the Presidency of the Republic of Montenegro Momir Bulatovic.

General Panic is touring naval units and facilities in the area. On arriving in the port of Zelenika, General Panic met with highest officers of the Navy command and discussed vital questions of the combat readiness of units.

The meeting was attended by President Bulatovic, who is also member of the Yugoslav Defence Council Presidency.

Serbia

Opposition Gives Panic 3 Month 'Grace Period'

LD1707001192 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Report on a news conference by Serbian opposition politicians in Budapest on 16 July by Gabriella Lantos]

[Text] Serbian democratic movement representatives do not know about any secret pact, but talks between Serbian and Croatian Presidents Milosevic and Tudjman on Bosnia-Hercegovina have been shrouded in mystery every time. This aggravated the situation on the territory, the Serbian opposition delegation said at today's news conference in parliament.

The delegation believes that talks on the Bosnian crisis should be held at the conference proposed by Lord Carrington, where apart from the three peoples of the Republic places should be ensured for delegates from Serbia and Croatia. Serbian Prime Minister Panic raised hopes with his announcement that he also considers it possible to set up a new negotiating delegation from Serbia. They said that they would consider military intervention overhasty, as they would the appearance of the fact-finding committee for Vojvodina and Kosovo. This could even be interpreted in Serbia as the intention of international forces to intervene, which would definitely make the situation of the opposition parties in little Yugoslavia more difficult.

Democratic movement parties will grant the three-month grace period requested by Prime Minister Panic to create peace and a democratic Serbia. However, despite this, they will not give up their main aim for early elections to be announced and for a constituent national assembly to be convened.

Radical Party on Intervention, New Premier

AU1607153992 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Excerpt] At a regular news conference, Vojislav Seselj, president of the Serbian Radical Party, condemned the blockade of the ports of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by some western powers. This is an act of aggression, Seselj said, appealing to the authorities and the people to prepare themselves and be ready for a possible attack on our country. Vladimir Nikolic reports:

[Begin recording] The Serbian Radical Party holds the view that a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis cannot be achieved by suppressing the interests of the Serbian people and threatening their existence on their traditional and ethnic territories, but only through negotiations, Seselj said.

Foreign aggression in Bosnia-Hercegovina cannot contribute to peace. Muslims want the entire Bosnia-Hercegovina for themselves. This is why they want military intervention and why they are avoiding negotiations. He appealed to the Serbian people to provide material help for the Serbian Krajinas and the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The Serbian Radical Party does not agree with Mr. Panic, prime minister of Yugoslavia, retaining the post of defense minister for himself, Seselj said, and added that a professional person, a proven patriot, should be appointed defense minister. Nevertheless, we expect that Mr. Panic can do much because of his connections abroad, his ability to communicate, and his knowledge, Seselj stressed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Macedonia

Government Resigns After No Confidence Vote

LD1707090192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0839 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jul (TANJUG)—The Government of the Republic of Macedonia officially tendered its resignation last night in line with the Constitution in view of the fact that the Macedonian Assembly had passed a vote of no confidence in it.

In a statement for the public, the government stresses that the public information media in the republic launched an unsubstantiated campaign against government members, which turned into a real antigovernment hysteria.

The public information media based their reports not on facts, but on rumors, and commented on all government efforts with incomprehensible malice, which created a climate in which it was easy to abuse public trust, according to the government statement. It expresses surprise that institutions did not react to protect the government's integrity.

Parliament Endorses Gosev as Premier-Designate

LD1707105592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0907 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Skopje, 17 Jul (TANJUG)—The Macedonian Assembly has reached the necessary parliamentary majority regarding the formation of a new Macedonian government and has endorsed Petar Gosev as premier-designate.

The agreement, it has been learned, was reached late last night following two days of negotiations between parliamentary parties. It is expected that republican President Kiro Gligorov will be informed about the proposal regarding the new premier-designate today.

A coalition of the Social-Democratic Alliance, the Reformists Forces of Macedonia, the Liberal Party, the Party for Democratic Prosperity, the National Democratic Party, the Party for the Full Emancipation of Romanies, and the newly formed Ilinden Free Democrats [Ilinden Slobodni Demokrati—Ilinden refers to day when Macedonians staged an uprising against Turkish rule on 2 August 1903] reached the necessary parliamentary majority about the new premier-designate.

Government Introduces Fuel Rationing

LD1707122192 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0949 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Skoplje, 17 Jul (TANJUG)—On the government's instructions, coupons for gasoline and diesel fuel were introduced in Macedonia today. The ruling will be in effect for three months. The owners of private vehicles are entitled to 40 liters of petrol per month.

The monthly quota for passenger vehicles owned by businesses is 80 liters, 200 liters for rent-a-car agencies and taxis, and 350 liters for trucks whose carrying capacity is over seven tons. Buses servicing routes between towns will be allocated 400 liters per month, and there are no limitations for ambulances, police, and firemen's vehicles.

This government decision was made to save the limited oil reserves at the republic's disposal. This move is also expected to curb the enormously increased level of oil consumption and the incredibly long queues outside gasoline stations as well as illegal trade in fuel.